

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE

VOL. XLIV., No. 1178. SHANGHAI, FEBRUARY 28, 1890. PRICE, Tls. 12 P. AN.

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LATEST MAIL DATES.

England	Jan. 20	Hankow	Feb. 22
San Francisco, ..	22	Yokohama, ..	22
Hongkong	Feb. 23	Nagasaki ..	24
Tientsin	13	Foochow	25

Shanghai mail advices of 18th January were received in London on the 2th February.

BIRTHS.

On Monday, 17th February, at 5, Nanking Road, Shanghai, the wife of Lieut. H. E. BOURCHIER, R.N., of a daughter.
At Ningpo, on the 24th February, the wife of E. F. MOMSEN, I.M.C., of a son, prematurely born.

MARRIAGES.

On the 18th February, at the British Episcopal Church, Foochow, by the Rev. L. Lloyd, the Rev. JAMES STRATFORD COLLINS, B.A., Trin. Coll. Dublin, Missionary of the C. M. S., Foochow, second son of the Rev. W. H. Collins, M. R. C. S. Rector of All Saints, York (formerly of the C. M. S., Peking), to MARY ISABELLA, fourth daughter of the late Samuel Johnson, Esq., J. P., of Brookville, co. Wexford.

On the 22nd instant, at the Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., JOHN BLACK CAMERON, Chief Inspector, Shanghai Municipal Police, to LILLIAN BLANCHE, second daughter of the late Captain ALEXANDER DAY HARRIS.

On the 25th instant, at the Cathedral, by the Rev. H. C. Hodges, M.A., Captain JAMES PRICE, to ALICE ANNE ARCHISON, daughter of the late Wallace ORD, Marine Surveyor, Amoy.

DEATHS.

At Shanghai, on the 16th February, 1890, GEORGE PATERSON, 2nd Engineer, s.s. *Sin Nanxing*, aged 30 years.

At Macao, on the 12th instant, at midnight, ELIAS A DA SILVA, in his 58th year.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Sutlej*, for London—Mrs. Hodgkinson, Misses Weir and Macgregor, Dr. W. A. Barr, and Master Worcester. For Marseilles—Mr. W. Gregory. For Hongkong—Sir R. T. Rennie Kt., Mr. and Mrs. C. Vincent Smith, Mrs. Sutherland, Baron Gunzberg, Messrs. L. Glénat, H. H. Davison, John Macgregor, H. Sylva, W. V. Sentance, J. A. Taylor, Suidter, H. W. Daniel, Howalott, Aug. Ehlers, M. D. Ezekiel, J. Schmidt, P. Mignard, Stempel, T. McC Browne, Heermann, Too Woon Mun, Chu Yung Poo, Chu Yun Hi and Master R. Ezekiel.

Per str. *Tokio Maru*, for Nagasaki—Mrs. H. J. Stancliff, and Mr. J. H. Downier. For Kobe—Mrs Fitzsimons, Messrs. J. H. Stevenson, C. Hotow, Rossiter, A. Rozario and Tan Ah Ham. For Yokohama—Messrs. E. McCabe and F. N. Rivas.

Per str. *Kiangyu*, for Chinkiang—Mr. F. J. Marshall.

Per str. *Sin Nanxing*, for Foochow—Captain Nesbitt.

Per str. *Nyankin*, for Kiukiang—Mr. F. W. Sthan.

Per str. *Tungchow*, for Tientsin—Dr. Petersen.

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Massilia*, from London—Mrs. Morris' 3 children and nurse, Mrs. Fergusson, Rev. Gilman, Misses Fergusson, Brittain, Forster, Leggett, Legerton and Burt, Messrs. Williams, Drummond, R. C. Walker and G. Wordsworth. From Naples—Mr. and Mrs. Morris. From Hongkong—Sergt. Major Williamson, Corp. Edwards, Mr. and Mrs. Tong Soy Chan, child and servants, Mr. and Mrs. C. Han, Miss Callan, Messrs. Bosworth, Bosworth Jr., J. Martin and Tong Kew King.

Per str. *Sachsen*, from Bremen—Baron von Marsdralk, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, Messrs. A. Overbeck, E. A. Aldridge, D. Percebois, M. Mess, F. Buckow, L. G. Sharpe, N. Sorensen, Pak Kai Chew and Chin Hock Chew.

Per str. *Ozawa*, from Japan for Shanghai—Messrs. Faga, Michael, Percival and Purcell. For Hongkong—Mr. Rosser. For Colombo—Mr. Connor. For Marseilles—Mrs. Joawa, Mrs. Audibert, Messrs. Vinals and Princep.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, from Yokohama, &c.—Mrs. Guinand, Messrs. Poasan, C.

Tullock, T. W. Hellyer, Nagata Kawamote, D. Goldman and L. Goldman.

Per str. *Ngankin*, from Chinkiang—Mr. F. J. Marshall.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Ningpo—Rt. Rev. Bishop Moule.

Per str. *Sual*, from Hankow—Mrs. Tudor Davies, and Mr. Sinclair.

Per str. *Yuenwo*, from Hankow—Mr. Bruen.

Per str. *Ichang*, from Ningpo—Messrs. Kelgour and Lammert.

Per str. *Paoching*, from Hankow—Dr. and Mrs. Simms, and Mr. Dawner.

Per str. *Tungchow*, from Chefoo—Lieut. Bouchier, and P. F. Lavers.

Per str. *Kungwo*, from Hankow—Dr. L. W. Atlee, U.S.N., and Mr. Chang Su Ho.

Per str. *Hsinyü*, from Chefoo—Captains Pratt and J. P. Roberts, A. Miller.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Ningpo—Mr. Jensen.

Per str. *Tamsui*, from Amoy and Swatow—Mr. Rhein (Charge d'Affaires).

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Dr. Jedson.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Ningpo—Dr. and Mrs. Barchet, and Misses (2) Barchet.

Per str. *Fuyew*, from Foochow—Mr. H. A. Collins.

Per str. *Hsinsheng*, from Hongkong—Mr. Symonds.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer		WIND.		Hygrometer at 9 A.M.			Thermometer in shade.		Initials.
	9 A.M.	Atmospheric Pressure	Direction.	Force.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.		
Feb. 22	30.20	44.0	N.	3	44.0	32.0	45.0	36.0	B	
23	30.20	43.0	N.	1	43.0	41.0	45.0	39.0	F.	
24	30.20	41.0	N.S.W.	2	41.0	40.0	44.0	36.0	B	
25	30.40	44.0	N.E.	3	44.0	42.5	48.0	38.0	O.	
26	30.25	44.0	N.E.	3	44.0	41.5	45.0	39.0	R.	
27	30.10	48.0	N.E.	1	48.0	47.5	48.0	40.0	R.	
28	30.35	42.0	N.W.	3	42.0	41.0	60.0	40.0	O.	

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12; estimated.

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IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 1890.

THE authority on which proxies are counted when a poll is demanded at ratepayers' meetings in Shanghai is found in Articles IX and XIX of the Land Regulations now in force, the paragraph relative to the matter in the second of the two running: "Provided always that the proxies of ratepayers only who are absent from the consular district of Shanghai, or are prevented by illness from attending, shall be admitted to vote at such meetings." As is generally known, in the election of ratepayers to serve on the Council, no proxies are taken, the prohibition being only inferred from a sentence in Article XVIII, which was

probably never intended to have any such effect. The paragraph relied on runs:—"These officers"—to be appointed by the existing Council for the purpose of conducting the election—"shall be provided with a list of all the ratepayers duly qualified to vote, and shall give to each such ratepayer as may be present and may require it, a voting card or paper containing a list of the ratepayers proposed for election." It is the words "such ratepayer as may be present", which are printed in Italics in the copies of the Regulations supplied to ratepayers who ask for them, that are held to require the personal presence of every voter. The drift of the Land Regulations has never been democratic; there has always been maintained in them a particular tenderness for the landowners in the settlements; and this is shewn by the high qualifications demanded from candidates for the Council and from voters, and from the intricate provision in Regulation IX which runs:—"Provided always that the proportion between the tax on land, and on houses or buildings, shall not exceed one-twentieth of one per cent. on the gross value of land to one per cent. on the annual rental of houses"; while the provision admitting the proxies of absentee ratepayers is another safeguard to them.

Year after year—though fortunately not every year—the question of proxy voting comes up in an acute form. A resolution is carried at the ratepayers' meeting by a majority of those ratepayers who take enough interest; somebody—it may even be the Vice-Chairman of the Council who prefers his private opinion to that of the ratepayers who elected him—demands a poll; and the resolution is lost by the proxy votes of absentee ratepayers who know nothing whatever of the question, and to whom it is not of the slightest interest one way or the other. The way in which time after time the absentees can block the way when the ratepaying residents want something done is one of the greatest blots on the administration of the settlements. It is obvious that the interests of the absentee land-owners are often different to those of the residents for the time being. The absentees as a rule care only to get the largest possible return from their property, and they are therefore naturally unwilling to support any scheme which involves a present outlay and possibly with it increased taxation. As long as the settlement is kept decently habitable, so that their houses will be let, and their rents will not fall off, that is all they ask. Mr. Probst, in his recent speech in opposition to the purchase of the Racquet Court site, gave in a few words the essence of the absentee ratepayer's view:—"I do not think the Municipal Council should in any way be put in the position of investors; that should be left to Land Investment Companies and other bodies. If later on, the Council have to buy a piece of land because it is an absolute necessity, they have to pay the

market price for it; but we have not to look five or ten years ahead as to what may be the requirements of the settlement." This opinion comes from the holder of 27 votes, and therefore the most important man at the meeting. The anomaly of this is so marked that it is hardly credible, and its practice reduces the government of the settlements to an oligarchy, a state of things which, it is perfectly safe to say, was never contemplated when the existing Regulations were passed. In the poll that was taken at the late meeting on the amendment to Resolution IX, 283 votes were cast altogether by 90 ratepayers, and of these 283 votes no less than 106 were cast by 6 ratepayers; the result being, that while the amendment was carried by a majority of 4 of the ratepayers present at the meeting—although the mover of the amendment had the *prestige* of the Council against him—most ratepayers whose opinions are not very strong either way giving their votes, very properly, to the Council—it was lost on the poll through the influence of the proxies by a majority of 67. It must be remembered that these proxy votes do not, as far as anyone can tell, represent the opinions of the absentee ratepayers, for it takes at least ten weeks to communicate with most of them by letter: it is merely the weight of their votes thrown on to the opinion of the individual who holds their proxies for the time being; and no one will contend that the opinion of one individual, who may only have been a very few years in Shanghai, is *prima facie* worth as much as the united opinions of twenty-seven other ratepayers, many of whom may have been very much longer in the settlement and done much more for it, but who hold no proxies. The harm done by this proxy voting is not limited to individual cases. It discourages many endeavours that would otherwise be made to carry out improvements in the settlements. The ratepayer who has some useful scheme to bring forward is deterred from doing it by the knowledge that while he may carry with him a majority of his fellow residents who see the value of his proposal, he can effect nothing unless he persuades the five or six pluralists who possess this preponderant voting power, and who from the nature of the case are very loth to agree to anything that involves what does not seem to be immediately necessary expenditure. We must do the large holders of proxies the justice to say that they have often seen this themselves; they have declined to call for a poll when they have seen that the show of hands was largely against them; and cases have occurred in which one of them has declined—when a poll was called for—to use his proxies, and has only thrown his individual vote. The worst of it is that in the proved impossibility of getting our present representatives at Peking to do anything towards reforming the anomalies in our Constitution, the present rate-

payers are helpless. Obviously these proxy votes ought not to be used, except on matters seriously affecting the absentee landowners, such as the imposition of new taxes, or the proposal of resolutions whose operation might tend to drive away the Chinese population from whom generally they derive their comfortable incomes. It is for public opinion to confirm this view, and get the large proxy holders to accept it and act on it, remembering always that

"It is excellent
"To have a giant's strength, but it is
tyrannous
"To use it like a giant."

Summary of News.

The English mail of 17th January arrived here on the 22nd inst., by the P. & O. Co.'s str. *Massilia*.

A mail leaves to-morrow morning for Europe, by the M. M. Co.'s str. *Natal*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[BY EASTERN EXTENSION A. AND C. TEL. CO.]
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

THE SOCIALIST MOVEMENT IN GERMANY.

London, 23rd February.

The Socialist vote has increased by 20,000 at Berlin and largely in the provinces, and Prince Bismarck's working majority is upset.

WAYS AND MEANS IN FRANCE.

In the French Budget a new Loan of seven hundred million francs (£28,000,000) is proposed, with increases in taxation.

DEATH OF THE MEMBER FOR CAVAN.

Mr. Joseph G. Biggar, M.P., is dead.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

London, 25th February.

At the German Elections twenty Socialists have been elected, and there will probably be many more at the second ballots.

THE SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA.

Three Dutch Socialist leaders have been arrested at Berlin.

A BLOW FOR THE EMPIRE CITY.

London, 26th February.

It has been decided that Chicago shall be the site of the United States Exhibition of 1892.

A SOP TO EMPEROR WILLIAM.

The Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs has announced that the Government has decided to accept the invitation of Germany to the Labour Conference.

LARGE MAJORITIES FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

The House of Commons has voted the reply to the speech from the Throne after a long debate, after various amendments were rejected by large majorities.

EMPEROR WILLIAM AND THE LABOUR QUESTION.

Berlin, 6th February.

The Emperor of Germany has proposed an Inter-state Conference on the labour question; this has caused surprise at Berlin.

PRINCE BISMARCK AND THE EMPEROR ON THE LABOUR QUESTION.

London, 7th February.

Prince Bismarck is adverse to the Emperor's rescript on the labour question.—*Singapore papers.*

Madrid, 8th February.

The Comte de Paris has abdicated his rights to the throne of France in favour of his son and heir the Duke of Orleans. The latter, on presenting himself in Paris, with the object of publishing a manifesto, was arrested by order of the Government in accordance with the law for the expulsion of the Princes.—*Manila papers.*

DEATH OF THE SULTAN OF ZANZIBAR.

London, 15th February.

The Sultan of Zanzibar is dead. [The late Sultan, or Seyyid, of Zanzibar, Bargash bin Said, G.C.M.G., was the son of the Sultan Sæed, and succeeded his elder brother, Majid, in October, 1870. His Highness leaves one son, who was born in 1877, but as there is no definite law of succession one of his five brothers may succeed to the throne.—Ed. D.P.]—*Daily Press.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

		1890.		Rainfall in inches
Fahr.	Thermometer.	Min.	Max.	
Feb. 21	35° 2	22	45° 5	0.16
" 22	40° 0	23	49° 5	.....
" 23	40° 2	24	49° 0	0.01
" 24	35° 2	25	53° 0	.....
" 25	41° 8	26	48° 8	.....
" 26	40° 8	27	46° 2	0.43
" 27	45° 0		49° 5	0.78
		1889.		Rainfall in inches.
Fahr.	Thermometer.	Min.	Max.	
Feb. 21	38° 5	22	52° 0	0.02
" 22	49° 0	23	50° 4	.....
" 23	42° 0	24	47° 0	0.38
" 24	42° 0	25	47° 0	0.05
" 25	40° 6	26	43° 5	1.01
" 26	36° 8	27	39° 0	.....
" 27	30° 0		41° 8	.....

The Siwewa report at 10 a.m. Feb. 21st read as follows: Yesterday the barometer was still slowly rising at the southern ports; but since the afternoon it has been falling at Shanghai. Unsettled weather.—Feb. 22nd: The falling of the barometer in Shanghai on Friday also extended south as far as Hongkong, with moderate winds in the Channel, but strong breeze from E. at Hongkong. Over Japan on the contrary, the barometer was decidedly rising. At Shanghai, it began to rise at 4 p.m. and towards 6 p.m. the wind went round by the south to W. and N.W. as at the passage in the North of a centre of low pressure. To-day it is still decidedly rising. Notwithstanding a cloudy sky, fine weather is probable.—Feb. 23rd: The barometer has remained almost steady in the south with moderate winds, variable in the Formosa channel, steady from E. at Hongkong. It was rising at Shanghai but fell during last night. Unsettled weather.—Feb. 24th: Yesterday the barometer still remained steady in the south and also over Japan. Winds were moderate or light, from N. in Japan to variable along the south coast. At Shanghai the fall reported yesterday did not last long and after 4 p.m. the glass began to rise slowly.—Feb. 25th: Yesterday the barometer still remained steady, above the average in the south, the winds being moderate in the Channel, but blowing with fresh breeze force at Hongkong. The barometer has kept on rising at Shanghai.—Feb. 26th: The barometer, still remaining steady and about the average in the south, was yesterday slowly rising at Shanghai, but is now slowly falling. An area of high barometric pressure appears to be prevailing to the S.W. of Vladivostok. Yesterday and today a gale was blowing from N. at Tokio. Along the China coast winds were moderate and breezes fresh from E. or N.E. Still unsettled weather.—Feb. 27th: Yesterday there was a strong gale from the N. at Tokio

and a moderate gale from N. and N.E. at Nagasaki; the barometer rising quickly at these stations. The centre of high barometric pressure reported yesterday was moving westward, crossing the Japan sea. Along the China coast, on the contrary, the barometer was falling. To-day at Shanghai it remain low and almost steady.

There are several changes pending in the British Consular service:—Mr. W. Holland from Amoy will succeed Mr. G. M. H. Playfair as Acting-Consul at Tamsui, when the latter gentleman will proceed to Chinkiang, and relieve Mr. L. C. Hopkins, as Acting-Consul there, Mr. Hopkins then succeeding Mr. C. F. R. Allen, at Kiukiang, while the latter goes home on leave of absence. Subsequently Mr. Carles will assume charge at Chinkiang, and Mr. Playfair will come here. Mr. James Scott will, on returning from home leave, resume his duties as Acting Vice-Consul at Chemulpo, relieving Mr. H. E. Fulford, at Chungking, while Mr. Cockburn, now at that port, will go home on leave. Mr. B. C. G. Scott is shortly expected to arrive at his post, Pakhoi, from England, and Mr. E. L. B. Allen, now at Pakhoi, will relieve Mr. Joly at Canton; Mr. Joly then succeeding as Vice-Consul at Macao, Mr. J. R. Coulthard, who goes home on leave, and is said to be about to retire from the service. Mr. Byron Brenan is expected by the next German mail from home to resume his post at Tientsin, Mr. Bullock, now Consul there, going home on leave.

Prince Ch'ing, the President of the Tsungli Yamèn, has been promoted to the post of Senior Vice-President of the Imperial Clan Court.

Chev. Alberto Pansa, Officer of the order of SS. Maurizio e Lazzaro and of the Crown of Italy, has been appointed Minister for Italy to China and is expected here in the spring. He was formerly Acting Consul-General at Buda-Pesth and a Councillor of Legation.

We notice that Chev. Alberto Pansa, the new Italian Minister to Peking, accompanied by his wife and child, was expected to leave Venice in the *Coromandel* for China.

Mr. W. Gregory, late H.M.'s Consul at Ichang, has now retired from the Consular service and left home by the *Sutlej* on Saturday morning to enjoy his pension.

We understand that Dr. Focke, the German Consul-General at Shanghai, will shortly leave for home, to be attached to the Foreign Office at Berlin, and will not return to Shanghai.

Sir R. T. Rennie, Chief Justice, left for Hongkong in the *Sutlej* on Saturday morning.

Although Vice-Admiral Salmon's time on this station is not up until April 1891, the *London and China Express* already says that Vice-Admiral the Hon. Walter Cecil Carpenter has been mentioned as his successor. We hear also that Rear-Admiral Sir Walter James Hunt-Grubbe, K.C.B., is mentioned for the command.

The German man-of-war *Leipzig*, with Vice-Admiral Deinhard on board, arrived at Hongkong on the 20th instant.

For some time past there has been an agitation going on among the engineers of the coasting steamers for an increase of pay, and matters came to a climax on Monday. The engineers a long while ago approached the principal steamship companies on this subject, but not meeting with a response, they determined to send in an ultimatum to the firms interested, and on Monday afternoon met at the Engineers' Institute to know the result, and to determine the course of action to be followed. Coming at a time when the great steamship companies are not combined as to rates of freight, etc., it has been found difficult for the companies to accede to the demands of the engineers. We had no certain information on the subject as to what had been done by the Indo China and C. N. Co.'s, up to 6 p.m. but so far as the C. M. S. N. Co. and their engineers are concerned, the parties have

come to a provisional agreement, with which both parties are satisfied. It seems evident the other two companies had either declined to grant the terms asked or had not found themselves in a position to reply, pending telegraphic instructions from home and Hongkong. All parties were very reticent on the subject and the engineers refused to give any information to the Press, but from the demeanour of the engineers it appeared that at the meeting on Monday afternoon they were prepared to carry out their threat and go on strike. Another meeting was held at 8.30 p.m., when the engineers were to finally decide whether they would go back to their vessels or go on strike. Since writing the above, we learn that the companies have decided to accede to the demands of the engineers, and consequently there will be no strike.

Now that there is no working agreement among the three large coasting steamship companies, there are numerous rumours in the air with regard to the future operations of the companies. It is said that the C.M.S.N. Co. will send the *Kiangkwan* to run as a night boat on the Hongkong-Canton line, and that the Indo-China Co. will put the *Kowshing* on the Shanghai-Ningpo route. Freights to Tientsin have consequently come down, and now goods are taken at Tls. 2.50 per ton on red bills of lading, whereas the rate used to be Tls. 7.50 per ton. We are told by an intelligent Chinese that the native shippers expect to be losers by this reduction, because they say that purchasers of their goods will soon become aware of the alteration, and will refuse to pay the former prices for the articles, some of which, having been shipped at the old rate of freight, will naturally be more expensive than those that have only paid the present rate.

There are rumours that the companies which were debarred under the agreement from competing for business in certain localities, will now consider the whole of the traffic open to them.

Mr. Chas. J. Dudgeon, agent of the Straits Fire Insurance Company, Limited, informs us that he has received a wire from the Head Office, stating that the report for 1889 has been issued, and that the following are the principal features:—Dividend: a second and final dividend of 2½ per cent. on 1888 account, and an interim dividend of 4¼ per cent. on 1889 account. Reserve fund increased to \$20,000; net premiums for the year \$171,535; losses for the year \$30,890, and balance on working account, 31st December, \$119,818.

We have been allowed to see the prospectus of the Shanghai and Suburban Omnibus Company, capital \$2,000, in 80 shares of \$25 each, fully subscribed. It is proposed to import two omnibuses, which are to run at intervals between the Bund and the Markham Road, being horsed by the Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd., and the estimate of working shews a net profit of 22.9 per cent. That these omnibuses will "supply a long-felt want" cannot be gainsaid, and we cannot doubt that the venture will succeed, and gradually develop into an extended and very lucrative business. We understand that Messrs. Cory, Gove and Robert Mackenzie are acting as the preliminary Committee of the enterprise.

The Pootung Dock lawsuit is not apparently going to die a natural death, and we may expect it to be resuscitated, though this will not be till after the return of Sir Richard Rennie. The petition and answer have been filed, we believe, and we have heard a rumour that additional proceedings are meditated by one of the parties.

The last three numbers of the *China Review* are mainly remarkable for instalments of history of missionary enterprise in China and the East. An article in the November-December number, on the preaching of the gospel in China, deals exclusively with the

efforts of the Roman Catholic propagandists and affords some highly entertaining reading. The conclusion one draws from the particulars given of the work of Ricci and his contemporaries is that converts of the upper classes were much more numerous than they are now, or it might be said, the more experience Chinese have had of the Western barbarian, the less they believe him. Perhaps the most interesting parts of the magazine to the unlearned reader are the notes, which contain a good many philological marrow-bones, as well as interesting details of the manners and customs of the wonderful people among whom we live. Dr Macgowan does not disdain to write on the child-lore of China, and tells us that the enquirer will find that not a few of the pastimes of his youth are common to Chinese children. In these, blind-man's-buff, hide and seek, and puss-in-the-corner are included.

We understand that the prospectus of the new Shanghai Hotel Company is objected to as not going sufficiently into details, and that the loan from the Land Investment Co. is looked upon as a burden upon the Company. The amount borrowed, however, only bears interest as it is called up, and no part of it will be taken on loan until the first subscription of Tls. 150,000 is used up in the expenses of building; and this amount will at once be placed in the hands of the Land Investment Co. and will bring in to the shareholders in the Hotel Co. an interest of 6 per cent. until it is exhausted. The payment to the present proprietor of the Astor House, amounting to Tls. 50,000, includes the purchase of his lease, which has 21 years to run, the goodwill of a paying business and the whole of his furniture and stock-in-trade, and is payable to him one-half in stock of the Company and one-half in yearly payments of Tls. 5,000 each. The present hotel will be carried on for the benefit of the new Company until it is necessary to clear the way for the new building; and it is not anticipated that there will be a total stoppage of the business for any great length of time.

During his presidency of the Iron and Steel Institute, Sir Henry Bessemer instituted a gold medal to be awarded yearly either to a director of iron or steel works or to a scientific man for improvements in the manufacture of steel or iron. The Bessemer medal for 1889 has been awarded to M. Henri Schneider, Director of the Creusot Works, for the continuous improvements in the processes used in those works, improvements which have been allowed to be universally used for the benefit of metallurgy in any country. The steam hammer, for instance, was first made in the Creusot Works, and the most accurate study of the properties of steel according to the nature and the proportions of its constituents, and the conditions of tempering and annealing, has been made in their chemical and mechanical laboratory. The results of that study have been recently published, and lectured on at the meeting of the Iron and Steel Institute, for secrecy has never been a policy in the management of these works. The medal was put into the hands of M. Henri Schneider by Sir Lowthian Bell, Bart., F.R.S., a past president of the Iron and Steel Institute, who came especially for that purpose to Le Creusot, accompanied by sixty members of the Institute, a special train having been kindly granted to those gentlemen by the Paris and Lyons Railway Co.

The many friends in Shanghai of the great violinist, Mr. Reményi, will be glad to hear that a letter was received from him by the last mail, dated Durban, S. Africa, 11th January, 1890. He says in it, "that it is a very bad wind which blows nobody any good, and the three years' mishappenings were actually good for me, and although dead I am still more a very lively corpse, with the very best health, thank God, and am well, or rather doing well. In two months' time, or at the latest

at the end of March, I will start for Europe with a tremendous collection of—

1.—*Saxoir*—studied terrifically.
2.—Many compositions for violin and orchestra.
3.—Eighty cases full of archeological, ethnographic, ethnologic, and artistic objects, and

4.—A wonderful collection of 45 violins, *unique*, of which I found 37 here in South Africa, among the old French Huguenots, scattered all over the country, especially in the Cape Colony and the Transvaal. For a good many of these marvellous old Cremona violins I paid a good price, but they are worth their price, *et an delà*; but some I bought for a song, especially one for two pounds, worth at least *six hundred*, and so forth, and so forth. Well; that I was shipwrecked (morally) to these shores without manager, without accompanist, (Luckstone is married in Mauritius, F. Weston dead) without lady singer, all alone, that was the good wind for me; therefore, we never know what is good for us. I made also a good deal of money.

. . . I hope to come again to Shanghai on my way to Tokio where I am bound to go for a couple of months (not concertising) at the end of next year; perhaps I may see you in August or September. . . . I wrote a magnificent book on Japanese Art; there is vanity for you!"

A correspondent writes from Seoul that the Korean shopkeepers, who are heavily squeezed by their authorities, were turning restive under the competition of their Chinese and Japanese rivals. They had petitioned unsuccessfully to have their rivals removed to a spot some three miles from the city, and at last organised a strike—with the view of starving out all foreigners—which began on the 22nd ult. Yuau, the Chinese resident, having promised to meet their views as soon as he received instructions from Tientsin, the blockade was raised on the 1st instant, but is to be re-established on the 28th, if a satisfactory arrangement is not made by that date.

The *Chinese Times* of the 8th says:—Yesterday the balmy weather which has prevailed for a week suddenly changed, a north-easter blowing all day. The wind dropped last night but sprang up again early this morning, and blew excessively cold from the north-west until about noon. The river is frozen over from the Farm to Hsin hsi ku, and also in the Nine Forts Reach, and the drift ice is blocked at Taku. Should the wind continue, there is a probability that the river will close at last.

It is to be hoped that the pedestal that has been erected on the Bund to receive the statue of Sir Harry Parkes is not an indication of the quality of the statue itself; for a more "cheap and nasty" piece of work it would be difficult to find out of the Euston Road, while the lettering would be a disgrace to the tombstone cutters on the Soochow Creek. It would be worth while to get a new pedestal designed and cut here, if it could be ready by the time the Duke of Connaught arrives.

Some time ago, the Customs seized an immense quantity of ginseng which was brought to Shanghai from Corea under suspicious circumstances. It was reported at the time that the ginseng was the property of an official, and pending instructions, the Shanghai Customs kept possession of it. We now hear that it has been returned to Corean owner on payment of the duty.

The *Ningpo* having made three hundred trips to Canton the native merchants of that port have presented Captain Köhler with a flag and a handsome silver cup. In honour of the occasion, the *Ningpo* was decked out with flags on Sunday.

It having been our custom to give the time of the departure from Woosung of the first steamers for the North at the opening of the season, we do so this year also, though there

is no race this time. The *Yiksang*, one of the steamers, having met with an accident to her steering gear, had not passed Woosung up till late on Tuesday—*Tungchow*, 7 a.m.; *Poochi*, 7.17; *Pechili*, 7.22; *Toonan*, 7.25.

The influenza appears to have been very prevalent in England when the last mail left, and people living in Shanghai find that many of their relations and friends at home have been attacked with it. In one case four persons, out of a family of six, were down with it; in another two; in a third one; and in a fourth five.

The following true story shows how unfounded reports of the ravages of epidemics are quite innocently started. A resident at Hankow having occasion to write to a friend to Shanghai, mentioned that a business connection at Wuhu, an Austrian, had lost three of his people by influenza. The correspondent here was naturally astonished to hear that the pandemic was so fatal at Wuhu, and wrote back to Hankow, expressing his surprise and concern. "Oh," wrote back the Hankow man, "you have misunderstood my letter; I meant that he had lost three of his people in Austria by influenza."

The Shanghai Artillery Volunteers had gun practice at the Point on Sunday in cold and unpleasant weather. There was a turn-out of 25 non-commissioned officers and men under Major Morrison and Capt. Brodie Clarke. Corp. Edwards, one of the two drill instructors recently arrived from Hongkong for the training season, was also present. Fifteen rounds of common shell and shrapnel were fired at a target at a distance of 1,550 yards. A change was made in the usual order of procedure, as instead of each gunner being allowed practice in laying the gun, this work was performed throughout at each of the two guns by one experienced man, and in consequence the shooting was very good. The battery reached home at four o'clock.

On Tuesday afternoon two four-wheeled carriages were being driven along Szechuen road at a rapid rate as if the mafos were having a race, but after crossing the Soochow creek bridge, one of the ponies apparently took fright and getting beyond the control of the mafos, bolted. In consequence of this, a jinricsha was upset and smashed, some damage was done to a shop counter and a man was knocked down. A foreigner who was passing went to the assistance of the fallen man and saw he was one of the Manila bandsmen, and that his leg was injured. The foreigner then put the bandsman into a jinricsha and took him to the General Hospital. It was found that he was somewhat bruised and that one of his ankles was sprained.

A blood-curdling story was circulated on Monday of a person having been run over and killed by a van on Sunday afternoon. One of our representatives made enquiries of a gentleman, who stated that a van had run over a well-dressed foreigner, the wheel passing over his neck, and that when he saw him after the accident blood was oozing from his ears, nose and mouth. The origin of this alarming story eventually proved to be as follows. It appears that on Sunday afternoon, as a bread van was going along Broadway opposite the Astor House, in the section of the road that is being dug up for repairs to the drain, the hood of a jinricsha struck the horse in the mouth causing it to become restive and back the van on another jinricsha behind, with the result that a wheel of the jinricsha came off. Just after this a foreigner came out of the Astor House, and, missing his footing, he fell on the curb on his nose which bled profusely. It was at this time that the first foreigner came along, and seeing a man covered with blood apparently concluded that he had been run over.

Stories as a rule lose nothing in repetition. Some days ago, there was a sensational story of eighteen stowaways being nearly suffocated in one of the ballast tanks of the *Haating*, and that they were only

saved through the chief officer, a man new to the ship, taking the idea into his head to look into the tank. It was said that the cover of the tank was closed, so that the tank itself was air and water tight, and that when the cover was taken off, the lamp lowered into the tank went out owing to the foul air, further, that another lamp was procured and then it was found that there were eighteen men just at the last gasp. Now for the facts. The chief officer, knowing that out of some 700 passengers there would probably be some stowaways on that trip, as he had found some before, looked down into the tank, which had a wooden cover on the manhole, and there found the eighteen men enjoying themselves under the impression that they were getting a cheap passage to Ningpo. They were, however, soon undeceived. They had only been in the tank a few minutes when discovered, and in any case they had plenty of air to breathe. Since then water has been pumped into the tank, so that it cannot be used for stowaways in future.

The Nordenfeldt whose failure was announced the other day is the well-known machine-gun inventor, and is managing director of the Maxim-Nordenfeldt Gun and Ammunition Company. The Company is not affected by his failure.

On Wednesday afternoon, one of the Chinese employes of the Customs at Hunt's Wharf saw a native leading a well-dressed child about seven years of age. Being struck by the appearance of the man and his suspicions being aroused, he spoke to them, and then found that the man, who professed to be the father of the child, did not speak the same dialect as the child. He then took them into the examination shed where the man produced a paper setting forth that the child had been purchased for \$15, but while the Customs employé had his back turned, the man ran away. Under the circumstances, it is only too probable that the child had been stolen.

At H.B.M.'s Civil Summary Court on Wednesday, before the Assistant Judge, two Chinamen, British subjects, appeared before the court, Wong Kong as plaintiff for the sum of \$54.32, value of two compradore orders, and Tséng Spencer Laisun as defendant. The latter acknowledged his liability and agreed to pay in a week. Judgment was accordingly entered for the plaintiff, with costs.

A somewhat unusual scene took place at the Mixed Court on Tuesday. The Mixed Court Magistrate and Mr. Emens (U.S. assessor) had before them the complaint of an elderly Chinaman from whom several Waterworks' shares had been stolen by his grandson. The latter transferred the shares to a speculatively inclined carpenter for \$750, and the carpenter in turn sold them to some one in one of the banks at a price which gave him a profit of something like \$240. This sum, it was decided, he must hand over to the complainant. No sooner had the latter left the court than a tremendous uproar arose outside, and the court was immediately invaded by police hauling in the disturbers by their pigtails. It then transpired that the complainant had been set upon by a number of the carpenter's friends, who smashed his chair and would probably have treated him with considerable violence had not the police promptly interfered. As it was, the old gentleman's peacock's feather was torn out of his cap and he was severely hustled. The assailants were remanded for a couple of days, to allow time for the excitement to cool down.

At the Mixed Court on Wednesday, three people were charged with stealing some chain and zinc from the *Massilia*. One man was sentenced to 14 days' imprisonment and to be deported; another to six months' imprisonment, while the third, a lad, was ordered to receive 100 blows on the hand with a ruler. A beggar was sentenced to 50 blows and to be deported for stealing some linen from a house, while

a native who had been deported, and had returned, was sentenced to receive 100 blows and to be re-deported.

The charge against the two persons who stole a cheque for Tls. 2,315.50, the property of Messrs. Dufour Brothers, and then absconded, was finally settled at the Mixed Court on Saturday. The man who induced Messrs. Dufour's compradore's son to cash the cheque was sentenced to five years' imprisonment and to receive 200 blows with the bamboo. The boy was ordered to receive 100 blows on the hand.

Three men were before the Mixed Court on Tuesday charged with being concerned in the robbery of 88 jadesone hair-pins. One man was sentenced to 100 blows and to two months' imprisonment, and the other two to 100 blows each. A native who unlawfully detained a young girl, the daughter of another man, was sentenced to three days' imprisonment.

A native was before the Mixed Court yesterday charged with being concerned in the armed attack on the Chartered Mercantile Bank on the night of 1st November, 1886. The accused averred that he was not in Shanghai at the time, so the case was remanded for further enquiries.

The *Foochow Echo* extracts from the *Grocers' Gazette* the news of the sale in Mincing Lane of a small parcel of tea from Fiji at 8½d. a lb. Several Ceylon tea-planters, it adds, are now in Fiji.

The Benchau pirates who carried off the Messrs. Roque and their friends have done well. From the *Courrier d'Haiphong* of the 13th we learn that M. Briffaud, an agent of the Messrs. Roque, had left for the hills with the sum of \$50,000, on payment of which the two Messrs. Roque and their compradore, and M. Costa, were to be set at liberty.

On the 17th of December last M. Ulysse Pila read before the National Colonial Congress in Paris a paper on the effect of the application of the French general tariff to the trade of Indo-China. It is given in full in the *Courrier d'Haiphong*, but is too long for us to reproduce. The gist of it is that the French Colony cannot prosper unless it is as free as Hongkong and Singapore; that the general tariff is strangling its trade. Saigon, he says, was a prosperous colony till the general tariff was imposed; "with its arrival, the face of everything is changed; traffic diminishes, smuggling is organised on the coast, the commerce of Saigon totters, public works are stopped; from being gay the country becomes melancholy, prosperity is transformed into poverty, collapses and failures follow one another." And all this has been brought about, in order to increase the customs revenue by some thousands; these thousands costing the Treasury hundreds of thousands; for prosperity is driven away, piracy is encouraged, and this entails the crushing expenses of military occupation.

There is a certain *naïveté* about the following extract from the *Daily Press* of the 20th:—"In the accounts of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company as published in our yesterday's issue there was an omission under the heading of "Liabilities" of "Sundry creditors, \$892,067.50."

The accounts of the Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., show a credit balance on working account of \$40,143.22, and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 83 per share, write off \$19,000 from the general agents' special advance account, and carry forward \$143.22.

The Governor of Hongkong (Sir Wm. des Vœux) and Lady des Vœux left that colony for England on the 19th inst., by the French mail steamer *Calédonien*. Just before embarking, Sir William was presented at the City Hall with two addresses, one from residents in the colony generally and the other from Chinese in particular. The former address bore signatures to a number quite unusual in Hongkong, and in the latter, grateful reference was made to the steps which

the Governor had taken to facilitate the establishment of a Chinese Chamber of Commerce in Hongkong. The addresses were presented by the Hon. P. Ryrie and Dr. Ho Kai respectively. In his reply, Sir William said he had been obliged to leave the colony under medical advice, owing to the effect which the climate had had on him; but everything in his power would be done to enable him to regain health and return in full vigour or sufficient vigour to do a great deal for the benefit of the colony. His Excellency, however, took exception to one portion of the address and did so in the following words: "I do not doubt that the Government of this colony is open to criticism or that it has defects. It has often been said that the prosperity of this colony is entirely due to merchants and others who have come here and have made it what it is. I venture to say that the Government of this colony, although it may have its defects, cannot but have been a good one, and I also venture to say that in no other part of the world is there a government which would have permitted the growth of prosperity which has been achieved in this Colony. My eyes are fully open to the defects of the government, but I do not see the way to such great changes as are expressed in the terms re-organisation and re-modelling. I thought it best to mention this as I could not honestly leave the colony apparently making such a promise."

The great libel case in Hongkong, *Brandt v. Fraser-Smith*, ended on the 16th as follows, after an exhaustive summing-up by the Acting Chief Justice, Mr. Fielding Clarke:—

The jury then retired and after an absence of three quarters of an hour found that in each of the three cases the writing complained of was a libel, and awarded the plaintiff \$50, \$1, and \$200 damages for the libels respectively.

His Lordship therefore entered judgment for the plaintiff for \$251 and the costs of the suit.

The Japanese government notifies that pending the construction of breakwaters for the harbour of Yokohama, two lightships will be moored to mark the north and east breakwater-heads, and to guide ships entering or leaving the anchorage through the fairway between them. The lightship marking the position of the head of the east breakwater, which will be about 9 cables long, and will run out in a northerly direction from a spot about 1 cable to the north-eastward of the mouth of the Nakamura-gawa, a creek in the foreign settlement, will be moored in 5 fathoms of water at 1 cable to the eastward of the head, will be painted green with a green ball on the mast-head, and at night will show a fixed green light at an elevation of 32 feet above the sea. The lightship marking the position of the head of the north breakwater, which will be about one mile and one cable long, and will run out in a southeasterly direction from a spot about 2 cables to the eastward of the east corner of the Kanagawa fort, will be moored in 5 fathoms of water at 1 cable to the eastward of the head, will be painted red with a red ball on the mast-head, and at night will show a fixed red light at an elevation of 32 feet above the sea. Both the lights will show all round and be visible about 4 nautical miles. The distance between the lightships will be about 1 cable. The lights will be lighted from the night of the 20th March next. After that date, all vessels entering or leaving the anchorage must pass only between the lightships. When coming in to anchorage, they should, to clear the breakwater-heads, steer west as nearly as possible for a distance of at least 2 cables after passing the lightships, and when going out, steer east for at least 2 cables before coming to the lightships. The channel for boats will be left unobstructed between the inner end of either breakwater and the shore.

Miscellaneous Article.

THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE.

25th Feb.

THERE is nothing in which the conservatism that comes with length of days is so strongly marked, or is considered so virtuous, as the universal endeavour of the old to keep the language of their country as it was when they were young. They will readily allow that it is only a dead language which does not continue to grow, as long as this concession is not made operative; generally they will consent that the language is capable of improvement, but any particular improvement or addition they condemn at once as intolerable slang, for which they can find no authority in the authors that were popular when they were young. They will not confess, even if they cannot help seeing it, that the slang of one generation is classical in the next; that what was classical two or three generations ago is obsolete now; and if it comes back to them, as so much good old English does, across the Atlantic, they damn it as an Americanism. Although Horace was one of the gods of the cultivated men of this kind, and no man is in the first rank amongst them who cannot illustrate the question of the moment by a line or two from Flaccus, as he was called still earlier, they forget his verses, which are as true now as when he wrote them;—

“Multa renascentur quæ jam cecidere,
cadentque
Quæ nunc sunt in honore, vocabula.”

One of the last writings of the late Dr. Charles Mackay, a man whose stirring lyrics will be remembered long after his more elaborate prose work has been utterly forgotten, is a protest in the *Nineteenth Century* against what seemed to him the rapid debasement of the English language. He entitles his article “The ascertainment of English”, the word ascertainment being itself an archaism from Dean Swift, and his object is “to treat of the purity and preservation of literary English, and to leave undiscussed and with slight mention the colloquial parlance of the multitude, which is governed by its own laws or by the absence of laws and corrupted by the changeful, frivolous, and often base and degraded fashion of the time, and which has no claim to represent the culture of the nation; and to maintain a purity of language which it neither appreciates nor is able to understand. The subject naturally divides itself into three branches; *first*, the correction of old or new orthographical errors; *second*, the misuse of words that are still legitimate and necessary parts of the language; and *third*, the restoration to currency of the words that have been unnecessarily suffered to drop out of the speech of our cultivated ancestors, whose genius created and adorned our literature, and gave it a foremost place in the intellectual history of mankind.”

With all respect to Dr. Mackay, what a hopeless task he undertook! The correction of orthographical errors in English is twisting ropes of sand with a vengeance. It is true that it is unreasonable to make the same four letters represent the six different sounds in the words *plough*, *though*, *enough*, *borough*, *cough* and *ought*; but there it is, and the only answer is that of the American politician; “What are you going to do about it?” To correct the misuse of good words requires the preliminary ascertainment of what is misuse; for it is not necessarily misuse of a word now to add to it a sense that it did not bear a generation or two ago. Take the modern frequent use of *had* for *would* as in the sentence, “People in the responsible position of ministers *had* better take time.” Of this, which Dr. Mackay considers a solecism, consequent upon the abbreviation of *Id*, which does duty both for *I had* and *I would*, he allows that it is “of constant recurrence in the editorial columns of influential journals of the first rank, and in the pages of authors of established reputation;” and he gives six instances from the *Times*, the *Morning Post*, the *Saturday Review*, Thackeray, and Leigh Hunt. *Solcuntur risu tabulæ*; a usage backed by such authority as that is good English. As to restoring to currency words that have been unnecessarily suffered to drop out of our speech, that word “unnecessarily” is the point. If the words had been still wanted they would not have been allowed to drop out, and when our American cousins try to restore some of them, our precisians drive them back as soon as they come, refusing to recognise them as belonging to our flock at all. For instance Shakespeare uses the word *deck* for a pack of cards:—

“But, while he thought to steal the single ten,

The King was silyly finger'd from the deck;”

and yet modern card-players regard the word as a Yankeeism of the most western type. Dr. Mackay is very severe on a party or ceremony of any kind being called a *function*, and on a person being called a *party*. Many of our readers must have seen quite lately a vigorous attack on the Society papers for their fondness for the word *smart*. The use of *function* for a ceremony of any kind is absolutely unobjectionable; it is a regular technical word among ecclesiastics for a religious service, and from that has come to represent any ceremony. The use of a *party* for a person is legal, and its use for an individual interested in any matter—not necessarily in something of which the law has cognisance—is as old as Shakespeare. “Dressed in a showy manner, spruce”, is a dictionary definition of *smart*, so that the Society writers, though we do not accuse them of knowing it, have the best authority for their use of it. Dr. Mackay finds fault even with Mr. Gladstone for the use of *dilapidated* for decayed, broken-down, and this is a fair in-

stance of the lengths to which purists will go in their endeavours to measure the English language by their rods. He says:—“The multitude is parrot-like in its power of imitation of that which it often hears, and adopts the stupidest words and phrases, out of sheer want of thought, and the ignorant perversities of an imperfect education, or the abortive struggle to originate or to reproduce a dull jocosity.” It is of this sad tendency of the uneducated that he takes *dilapidated* as an example, a most unfortunate selection, as the authorities for the use of the word in the sense of decayed, ruined, wasted, are numberless.

But Dr. Mackay is a very inconsiderate objector. “The great danger,” he goes on to tell us, “to which the purity of the beautiful and sufficiently copious English language is exposed arises from the offensive coinage of wholly unnecessary and mongrel words by the imperfectly educated vulgar, such as *to peacock*, *cablegram*, *parlous*, *lengthy*, and others that threaten to become permanent blotches upon the face of the language.” A more unhappy catalogue it would have been difficult to make. *To peacock*, so far from being such a coinage as Dr. Mackay states, is as old as Sir Philip Sidney; *parlous* is used by both Shakespeare and Milton; *lengthy* is at least as old as Southey, and is intrinsically unobjectionable. *Cablegram* requires a little more explanation. When “telegraphic despatch” was beginning to be found too cumbersome some thirty or so years ago, there was a great discussion as to whether *telegrapheme* or *telegram* should be the word, and Edward Walford, still a well-known scholar, in a three-line letter to the *Times* made *telegram* the choice. But then a word was wanted to designate telegrams that had come by submarine cable, and *cablegram*, barbarism though it is, is the result. The fact is that language is a growth, not a manufacture; as long as a nation lives and progresses its language will live and progress with it. It is hopeless to try and stop it at any point in its progress and say, “Now it has reached perfection, and it shall not be added to, nor diminished.”

THE VISIT OF THE CONNAUGHTS.

26th Feb.

THEIR Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught will arrive in Shanghai early in the morning of Easter Monday, the 7th of April, in the P. & O. steamer *Ancona*. So far we have not heard of any commencement of preparations for their reception; we cannot imagine that this has been due to any wish to discourage their coming to Shanghai, but rather to the uncertainty as to their including the Model Settlement in the programme of their homeward journey. Republican as Shanghai is, it is ready to do proper honour to a royal or imperial visitor. It is even more ready to do so in the case of a

royal visitor who is known to take a great interest in his profession, and to be a practical soldier; while as to the personal qualities of the Duke and Duchess, we have only to turn to Lady Dufferin's recently published book, to see how popular they have made themselves with all classes in India. So far it is only intended that our visitors shall spend one day in Shanghai, and we cannot therefore offer them all the distractions that were provided for the Duke's elder brother, the Duke of Edinburgh, or for the Russian Grand Dukes who have been here since that visit. So many of our leading men, including the Chairman of the Municipal Council, are at the present moment in Hongkong, engaged in the scientific study of the *Equus caballus*, var. *Sinensis*, that it will perhaps be necessary to defer the first public meeting to decide how the Duke shall be greeted until their return. It has already been suggested that the Duke shall inspect the Volunteer force, for which the British Government has already done so much, and it would be well that he should be able to take home with him the assurance that that liberality has not been wasted: while the probability that his royal highness will inspect it, and inspect it not perfunctorily as a mere personage but as an experienced general officer, should give a decided fillip to recruiting this spring. The unveiling of the statue of Sir Harry Parkes will, of course, be now left to be performed by the Duke, who will naturally be glad to have the opportunity of paying this compliment to the memory of one of the Queen's most able and devoted servants in the Far East. The unveiling of the statue, the inspection of the volunteers, and such sight-seeing as Shanghai offers, will fill up the hours of daylight on Easter Monday, and in the evening there should be a general reception and ball at the Club, as there was on the occasion of General Grant's visit; and, if it is thought well, a parade of the fire brigade, which can nowhere be better seen than from the Club verandah, can be combined with it. The Chinese, if approached by the Municipal Council, would no doubt gladly take part in the welcome to the visitors, as they are doing in Hongkong. The Duke of Connaught pays us a compliment in calling in here on his way to Japan, and it is our duty as well as our pleasure to do everything we can to make Shanghai look its best on the occasion, and to help our royal guests to enjoy their visit.

THE MAIL SCHEDULE.

26th Feb.

THE community will hear with great satisfaction that the visit to London of the P. & O. agent in Shanghai, Mr. H. H. Joseph, has resulted in the arrangement of a homeward (from this) mail table, which embodies the points most desired by all residents here. From the tenth of May next, the homeward mails by the English and French lines

will leave regularly every Saturday at noon from Woosung. The French were very anxious to make Sunday the day of departure from Shanghai, but Mr. Joseph represented forcibly the grave inconvenience which this entailed on the residents of one of the most important places served by the Messageries Maritimes, and ultimately Saturday was fixed on, and the French and English mails will leave on alternate Saturdays, without regard to the monsoons. Here another good old tradition dies; monsoon allowances are dead and buried. The absurdity of sending two steamers away from here, with an interval of one day between them, which were expected to arrive home a week apart because on the intermitted day the monsoon had changed, is done with. For the last two years or so the steamers have arrived here just as soon in the northeast as in the southwest monsoon, and the framers of the schedule at home have had this borne in upon them at last, with the result that the eccentricities involved in the monsoon allowances will no longer amuse, and sometimes annoy, as before. Another excellent change is the provision that the steamers shall leave Woosung at noon. The recent habit of leaving during the night or at daylight has been fraught with actual danger, at times, as well as constant discomfort to passengers, while there has always been risk to the mails in it. It is quite unnecessary to dwell on the discomfort of leaving this in a tugboat at eleven o'clock at night for a two hours' voyage, regardless of the weather; it has been always disagreeable, though not always so bad as it was the other night, when the passengers for Japan who left here at seven in the evening to join the Messageries' steamer, which was to sail at nine the same night, did not reach her owing to fog until nine the next morning. By the new rule the transit will be made at the most convenient time of the day, the forenoon, and the passengers will get comfortably on board in time for lunch, and will have the afternoon to settle themselves down in their staterooms. The German mail, we presume, will continue to be the comet to the two planets. It is not to be inferred that the visits of the fine steamers of the North-German Lloyds are erratic or irregular, for they keep their four weeks' intervals with the utmost steadiness; but the ordinary mind which finds the regular weekly dispatch quite enough to occupy its energies cannot grasp without the assistance of reference to a schedule, the dates on which this extra communication with Europe arrives and starts. The Chamber of Commerce and the Press have been fighting for a long time to secure these simple and beneficial reforms, and it is pleasant to know that they are to be adopted at last. When we have made these suggestions before, we have been told that their adoption would upset the Bombay schedule, and bring despair into the offices of all the merchants in India;

we have accepted the rebuff without in the least understanding how the commerce of India could be demoralised by our mails being despatched from here on Saturday at noon instead of on Sunday at daylight; we realised with complacency that we suffered in order that Bombay might be happy. We shall hear by and by how Mr. Joseph has succeeded in pacifying Bombay, and leading the General Post Office back into the path of common sense; it is enough for us at present to know that he has done it, and that we shall have all our Saturday afternoons henceforth free for those recreations on which we depend to preserve our health and spirits in this most trying climate.

SOCIALISM IN GERMANY.

27th Feb.

THE Reuter's telegrams that we publish this morning are of very grave importance, for anything that threatens the stability of Germany, threatens the stability of the whole of Europe. The most repressive laws have been unable to check the advance of the tide of socialism, even when these laws have been accompanied by the adoption of socialistic measures by the State. No one is better alive to the danger than the young Emperor himself, who is so determined to repress the fermentation in Berlin that he has established there almost a reign of terror; as we quoted recently from the correspondence of a home paper: "Court and State matters are less discussed than ever in social circles, for people are too afraid of getting into trouble, and think that, in this case, silence is the better part of valour." People in social circles—which means anything but the circles in which socialism flourishes—may be afraid to talk; but in lower circles they not only talk but act, and their action takes the form of an increase at nearly every election in the number of socialists sent up to the Reichstag.

The German empire has a population of some 47 millions living in what, generally speaking, is a poor country; is certainly a poor country, compared with France or Italy. These 47 millions have to support, on a peace footing, an army of as nearly as possible half a million men at a cost of about 37 millions sterling a year. As military service is compulsory, the actual pay of the army is small, but it has been the policy of the last thirty years to spare no expense in providing the army with the best obtainable material. There is no sign at present that this enormous load can be lifted altogether from the shoulders of the toilers in Germany, or reduced. The nation has borne it for twenty years, helped by the glory of the defeat of France, and the solid assistance of the indemnity; helped also by patriotism, which has decreed that what German arms acquired, German arms will secure from attack. But patriotism, love of country, is like the gentler love in this, that when poverty comes in at

the door it is apt to open the window, if not actually to fly out. Germany has always been poor; it has had the glory of being emphatically the land of plain living but high thinking. Of late, thinking has taken the form of questioning whether in the present social system the last word has been said.

It is here that socialism steps in and asks to be heard. Socialism, to borrow a condensed description, is "primarily and broadly the name given to the doctrine which proclaims the equal right of all to the material conditions of existence—that is, to the enjoyment of the necessaries, comforts and luxuries of life—and at the same time the equal duty of all to labour in relatively equal proportion (so far as may be needful) for the maintenance of those material conditions." There is nothing necessarily anarchical in the programme of socialism, though under repression its followers have tended to become anarchists, nihilists, communards. In fact, the true socialist holds that it is society as at present constituted which is anarchical, which is reaching or has reached a condition in which it may break down at any moment from its own weight. "On the one hand we have a small class of capitalists with the means of production entirely in their power, who can therefore demand what terms they like for the permission to allow the labourer to live by the labour-power which is his sole possession; on the other an ever increasing army of workmen ready to work for the barest subsistence-wages."—It may be remarked, in passing, that Germany is no longer mainly an agricultural country. As long ago as 1883, only 43 per cent. of the people were supported by agriculture, against 46 per cent. by other industries.—The class of capitalists "is growing unable to manage its own system, while its pressure on the working classes grows more and more unbearable." A complete reorganisation of society is necessary; a complete readjustment of political, religious, and domestic relations, involving the abolition of their present forms; but while the anarchists would destroy everything existing, in order to construct an entirely new system on the ruins, the socialists would transform gradually the existing society. Their motto is "Use for each and possession for all"; their aim, "for the working classes throughout the world to combine to take possession of the means of production, land, factories, communications, mines, etc., together with the means of distribution and exchange, warehouses, stores, banks, etc., and work them in the interest of the whole community." As the new system is to extend over the whole world, there will be no more national jealousies, no need for armies and fleets; an immense source of waste will be stopped, and as every-one will have to work, no individual will have to do more than a moderate amount of work.

Socialism has never obtained a footing in England or the United States, because the conditions of life are so different there. The ranks of the workers are not overcrowded—by the latest report of the state of the skilled labour market to the Board of Trade it appears that the proportion of unemployed workmen in the mid-winter month was only 1.75 per cent.—and the wages of artisans have been steadily rising while the prices of commodities have been falling. In Germany protection has raised the price of everything the poor have to buy and has, with the formation of rings, diminished the export trade and, consequently, the demand for what the poor have to sell, their labour. It must be a blow to the young Emperor that his homœopathic remedy, his cure of social democracy by state socialism, has been of no effect whatever. In the last Reichstag there were only eleven Social Democrats, and they could not institute measures of their own, for which the signatures of fifteen members are required. This year they have already, we learn, elected twenty members, and will probably seat many more at the second ballots. In Berlin, as we learnt on Tuesday, their vote has increased by 20,000, and the figures are very telling. In 1867 they polled 67 votes; in 1871 2,000; in 1874, 11,000, in 1877, 32,000; in 1878, 56,000; in 1889, owing to the rigorous application of the anti-socialist law, 30,000; in 1884, 69,000; in 1887, 90,000; and this year 20,000 more. Prince Bismarck, we learn, has lost his majority; and we seem to be on the threshold of a struggle which may not be confined to Germany.

THE MAIL SCHEDULE, II.

27th Feb.

WHEN one chronicles the attainment of some excellent end, and connects with it the name of some individual who has worked hard to bring it about, it is not to be inferred that one excludes from praise any others who may have assisted in the good work. In singling out Mr. H. H. Joseph for commendation on account of the satisfactory arrangement that has been virtually concluded for the future dispatch of our homeward mails, we did not for a moment wish it to be thought that M. Chapsal, the agent here of the other company concerned, the Messageries Maritimes, had not given Mr. Joseph the most valuable assistance. It must have been obvious, indeed, that the directors of the French company would before coming to an agreement have to possess themselves of the views of their Shanghai representative; and it is well known that M. Chapsal has been energetic, and almost importunate, in urging on his directors the necessity for the changes that are soon to be inaugurated. Mr. Joseph's advantage was that he was on the spot while the schedule was being considered, but he would be the first to allow, as every one here interested in the question

knows, that his representations received the most consistent and invaluable support from the arguments and demonstrations sent from here by his French colleague.

CORN DUTIES IN EUROPE.

28th Feb.

THE average man would hardly be disposed to look to Russia for enlightened views on economical or financial subjects, and would be rather surprised to hear that a recent monograph on the corn trade of Russia with foreign countries, published by the Railway Department of the Russian Ministry of Finance, ends with the following prediction:—"There can be no doubt that the protectionist system, so far as regards corn, cannot long continue to be adopted by European legislation, and the period is perhaps not far off when we shall experience a wave of public opinion similar to that which in England finally brought about the abolition of the corn laws." This should gladden the hearts of the members of the Cobden Club. The protectionists at heart in England have always fallen foul of Cobden for his prediction that all Europe would follow England's example in adopting free trade, a prediction still unrealised; if the Russian writer is not mistaken, at least as far as regards corn, the realisation is only deferred.

The paragraph we have just quoted is the conclusion of the Russian minister's chapter on the Customs duties on corn. Germany, he says, was the first to impose them some ten years ago, when the competition of the United States farmers was beginning to be seriously felt by the German growers. Nearly all the other European countries, with the exception of England, Belgium, Holland, and Denmark, have followed Germany's lead in the adoption of these protective duties, with precisely the results that every economist could foresee. At first, foreign competition was reduced, and the farmers got a better price for their product, this better price coming out of the pocket of the consumer. But an improvement in the price leads to an extension of cultivation, and as this increases the quantity of corn in the world, which cannot be held back for an indefinite period, foreign corn is soon offered at a price which nullifies the protective action of the duties. The farmer in the protected country is no better off than he was before, and the only remedy is a farther rise in the Customs duties. This must go on until it results in the interdiction of the import of foreign grain altogether, a measure which was almost enforced last summer in Portugal. This state of excessive protection can be borne in a country like the United States, in which there is perfect freedom of trade between the different States, which together make up what is almost a continent; but the European countries depend a good deal on foreign trade; and when, by their protective duties on corn they raise the price of bread to an artificial

height, they make it impossible for their manufacturers—whose tariff of wages to be paid is regulated by the price of bread—to compete in the markets of the world with countries in which the influx of foreign corn keeps the price of bread at its natural level. The Russian Minister—whom we are summarising—shews that the German duties on wheat, rye, oats, and barley, are equivalent to 42, 65, 56 and 22 per cent. respectively on the market price at St. Petersburg; and this bonus the German manufacturer has to pay in the shape of extra wages to his workmen, before he can compete with the English manufacturer of the same goods.

The luminaries who are responsible for German finance contend when this consideration is suggested, and precisely the same argument is used by the protectionists in the United States, that the customs duties are not paid by the German consumer but by the foreign producer. We should hardly have thought it necessary to shew the fallacy of this argument, but our writer does so and proves it by figures. The argument should be only true, he says, in countries which produce the entire quantity of cereals necessary to feed their population, and, he should surely have added, at as low a cost as the exporting country. In this case it is obvious that the exporting country will only find buyers for its corn by paying the whole amount of duty, a position of things only conceivable for the purpose of argument. But the moment the local production is less than the local consumption, and the country has to look abroad for an additional supply, there must be a rise in the price balancing the duty. The price of wheat in Berlin with a heavy duty is compared with that in duty-free London, the comparison shewing how much of the duty is paid by the German consumer. That the Russian producer pays any part of the duty, *i.e.* takes a lower net price for his wheat in Berlin than in London, is only because Russia produces more surplus corn than the duty-free countries can take; for no one would with his eyes open send his grain to a market where he had to pay import duties, if a duty-free market were open to him. But as agriculture declines and manufacturing extends, as is the tendency in modern Europe, where the gradual spread of education makes even the labouring man prefer the intellectual activity of the town to the stagnation of the country, the share of the duty falling on the native consumer will go on increasing, and,—to quote this monograph once more—“Russia, like other countries which produce cereals on a large scale, will find herself released more and more from that burden which still weighs heavily on her exports.” It is possible that the decline lately signalled in the export trade of protectionist Germany, synchronous as it is with an advance in the trade of free-trade England, may induce German economists before long

to enquire a little more closely whether protection protects in the most favourable way. Perhaps trade is not the only thing in which Germany would be the better for a little more freedom.

Review.

THE ENGLISH MAIL PAPERS.

CONSIDERATIONS of space oblige us to be brief in our review this morning of the papers brought by the *Massilia*. The influenza, after carrying off in the same week the old Lord Napier of Magdala and the young Lord Cairns—more notorious as Lord Garmoye,—had been nearly all blown away by the strong westerly winds, just as the stage of disbelief in its existence at all in England had been reached. But if the *Daily News* is right, there had undoubtedly been an epidemic in England, and the name influenza is as good a one as could be given it from its very vagueness. That paper says on the 16th of January:—

Our experience of its ravages seems very small compared with the reports of what it has done in Continental towns. Nevertheless, it has been serious enough. It has carried away some distinguished persons, it has laid aside many more, from the Prime Minister downwards, and it has fallen heavily on large numbers of busy people in all ranks of life. The Registrar-General's returns, to which we called attention yesterday, fully bear out the warnings we have published against neglect of what seems at first a trifling ailment. During last week 67 deaths in London were directly attributed to the epidemic, while deaths from diseases of the respiratory organs were actually 522 in excess of the average. How much of this loss of life is really due to the prevailing illness it is impossible to say, but it is certain that the proportion must be very large. It is curious to find that although there have been very many cases to study, our medical authorities do not seem to have learnt much. The infectiousness of the disease, in spite of vast amount of testimony, is still disputed, and its method of propagation is a mystery. The idea that the infection is blown along the wind is laughed to scorn, in spite of the great difficulty of otherwise explaining sudden outbreaks on board ships which are miles away from land and which do not come from infected ports. As long as the air was stagnant and cold and damp the disease spread rapidly, and its incidence was most puzzling. But the refreshing winds have acted like a charm. Wherever they have reached the virulence of the epidemic has decreased, though it is still raging in Central Europe beyond the borders of the atmospheric disturbance. There really does not seem to be any reason why the seeds or germs of a disease should not be capable of being wafted from place to place. The air is full of minute particles, many of them no smaller than such organisms might be, and the possibility of wind-borne infection depends only on the time the organisms can live apart from congenial soil. Some contend stoutly that influenza is certainly to be classed with malarial fever, if indeed it is not identical with it. At all events, there is nothing more certain than that the outbreak of the disease in England coincided with a wind from the coasts of France, and that its decrease has occurred with a succession of strong winds fresh from the open waters of the North Atlantic.

There is a general consensus that the last occurrence of an epidemic of influenza in England was in 1847, but a correspondent reminds *Punch*, that in a travesty of *Faust* produced by the Cambridge A. D. C. about ten years later there was a song beginning “Influenza is about, So I'll stay no longer out,” and certainly Burnand ought to know.

The cartoon in *Punch*, if not very respectful to Major Serpa Pinto, gives very comprehensively the ground of our quarrel with Portugal. A Portuguese soldier is dancing on our Union Jack, and the legend

runs: “Plain English!—*John Bull*. ‘Look here, my little friend, I don't want to hurt your little feelings,—but, come off that flag!’” Some of the opposition newspapers, which seem to think that it is justifiable to use any stick to beat the government with, are sneering at Lord Salisbury for being ready to go to arbitration in the case of a dispute with a great Power, but refusing it in the case of Portugal; but it is obvious that no Minister who respects himself and his country can go to arbitration when the flag has been insulted. The *Pall Mall*, which is strong enough in opposition as to home politics, is sound on this question. “Lord Salisbury,” it says, “has done the right thing the right way without any unnecessary fuss, and he has gained his end;” and it gives a little history of the affair, which is worth summarising. Early in 1889 England decided to extend her protection over the country south of the Zambesi—of which, it must be remembered, the Portuguese know absolutely nothing but what they have learnt from English discoverers and English maps—and sent Consul Johnston to Lisbon to arrange terms with Portugal, securing at the same time an uninterrupted right of way from the Cape to the great Central African Lakes. Consul Johnston was empowered to offer Portugal a *quid pro quo* so valuable, that the Scotch missionaries were up in arms, attacking Lord Salisbury for being much too complaisant to Portugal. Unfortunately now for Portugal, she too could not see when the half is more than the whole, and she refused anything less than the recognition of her sovereignty over the broad belt from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. Consul Johnston was withdrawn from Lisbon and sent to Africa with a trunk full of Union Jacks and *carte blanche* as to planting them. The *Pall Mall* continues:—

Before Mr. Johnston left this country he made the acquaintance of Mr. Rhodes, of the Chartered African Company, an acquaintance that ripened into a friendship, and an alliance in which we may find the key to much that has happened of late months in South Eastern Africa. Mr. Rhodes got his charter, and Mr. Johnston, with his carpet-bag stuffed with blank treaties and British flags, began operations north of the river Ruo, which empties itself into the river Shiré, a few miles south of the mission station at Blantyre. Passing Major Serpa Pinto, who was on his way northward with a force of Zulus, Mr. Johnston made treaties with the Makololos, distributed his flags, and passed on serenely to negotiate a peace with the Arabs at the north end of Lake Nyassa. Meanwhile the Portuguese, to bid defiance to Mr. Rhodes, despatched an officer to establish Portuguese sovereignty over Mashonaland, and to checkmate Mr. Johnston they reinforced Major Serpa Pinto, and launched him with Gatlings and Winchester against the Makololo who had placed themselves under the protectorate of Britain. Seeing that we were not going to give way, the most benevolent course to the Portuguese Government was to convince them (1) that we were in earnest, and (2) that we were ready to bring irresistible force to bear upon the Portuguese colonies. Without any fuss or fanfaronade the navies of England, not our great war navies, but the supplementary little fleets which we keep on foreign stations, were marshalled in readiness for action. Then the Portuguese Government was informed courteously, but decisively, that unless they withdrew within their own territories diplomatic relations would be suspended. A powerful fleet at the same time sailed southward from Zanzibar towards Delagoa Bay. The Portuguese Ministers, looking over the map, saw Quilimane, Delagoa Bay, St. Vincent, and the Cape Verde Islands already marked for British occupation. They deliberated, and then gave way. There is a fierce effervescence at Lisbon, where the success of the revolution in Brazil inspires the mob with dreams of a Republic, but it will probably blow off in venomous newspaper splutterings.

The *Pall Mall* is farther distinguished this week by a very fair reproduction of an

admirable photograph by Mr. Hay Cameron of the Poet Laureate at Home, some interesting sketches of Sarah Bernhardt in "Joan of Arc," two amusing pages on the great Harry Payne, the last of the clowns, a Caldecott-like page of sketches of a New Year Hunt, and a telling cartoon of Goschen brooding over the Revenue.

General Harrison has recognised the Brazilian Republic, and congratulated its authors on the mildness and success with which the change was effected; but there is another side to the story, though it is possible that the following note from the *St. James's* is exaggerated:—

Though the Revolution in Brazil was celebrated by Mr. Gladstone as Bloodless, a good many people have sustained that mortal injury from which men "do seldom or never recover." It now appears that on December 18th a hundred Imperialists were killed and wounded; and the Provisional Government, when the affray was over, ordered twenty-one others to be shot. One may safely assume, therefore, that the history of the revolution has still to be written; and that, when the truth is known, the main incidents of the struggle between the leaders of order and disorder, or conservatism and progress, if one prefers the phrase, will appear no less sanguinary than such disturbances usually are. Of course we can hardly blame the organisers of the Revolution for obscuring the real facts of the case as long as possible; but something might be said of the folly and wilful blindness of those foreign publicists who were taken in. We trust Mr. Gladstone continues to be pleased with this truly peaceful revolution.

The following, from the same source, is a neat little sketch of the late Lord Napier:—

Lord Napier of Magdala, who is as yet the most distinguished English victim to influenza, was a soldier of that good old type of which India has so long been the school. A taste for soldiering is in the blood of every Napier, and the man who carried through the Abyssinian campaign of 1868 so skillfully began soldiering at sixteen. He had passed more than sixty years in arms, and he died in harness, for he was still Constable of the Tower and a Field-Marshal. Lord Napier was not a dashing speech-making General of the modern type, and he was nearly sixty when he received his peerage. Yet in India during the Mutiny, and in the Chin-se campaign of 1860, he did work of great importance, and did it with vigour, promptitude, and complete success. He will be best remembered by his difficult expedition against King Theodore of Abyssinia. That bloodless campaign (not a man was killed and on ten were wounded) was carried through with great rapidity and complete success; and its commander was fully recompensed, not merely for that achievement but for a life spent in the field, by being raised to the peerage. Lord Napier's career proves once again how splendid a training-ground for soldiers we have in India.

But the best things after all in the *St. James's* are the occasional articles. The curious in rhymes will be pleased with the following note:—

There is a rhyme to eighteen-ninety after all. An ingenious correspondent informs us that there is a place in Wiltshire called Minety, and sends us the following:—

On the Great Western line, at the station of Minety,

I offered my porter to pay for a pint; he Accepted a quart, and we drank 1890.

The *Pall Mall*, by the by, has the following telling note anent General Boulanger:—

Boulangerism Dead and Done With.

It is never safe to talk of finality in politics—least of all in French politics. But for the present, at any rate, Boulangerism appears to be "dust and ashes, dead and done with." Here are the figures of the Boulangerist vote in two elections held on Sunday:—

General Election.	Sunday.
L'Orient	9,000
Rochechouart	2,000
	9,000
	5,000

In both cases the seats were of course lost. Nothing fails like failure.

The *Spectator* has two good articles, one on "The Ideal Bishop," and the other on

"The Post Office Jubilee." Those who read the *Saturday Review's* articles on "Mr. Gladstone on the Melbourne Government," and "Mr. Gladstone on Agriculture"—two out of the three articles in the issue of the 11th devoted to the Grand Old Man, will be astonished to find that even the *Saturday* can still speak well of the octogenarian enemy. Mr. Punch's Exhibition of Grand "Old Masters," by Harry Furniss is worth some study, and there is a pleasant humour in the fairy tale "Old Colds for New."

Outports.

CHEFOO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A very successful fancy dress ball was given last night, Shrove Tuesday, by Messrs. Kyd Aitken and Lange at the residence of the former. The house was arranged most conveniently for dancing, promenading, supping and so on, and was decorated with flags, silk hangings and plants. The verandah was lighted with Chinese lanterns and an occasional fairy lamp among the green leaves. It was very tastefully done and the whole effect was admirable, forming a charming background for the fancy dresses. These latter were both varied and pretty. The comic element was well represented by Uncle Sam in a stripey-and-starry get-up, with an amazing hat and a delightful beard; a clown; and a very full-grown baby of precocious disposition who, arrayed in the spotless innocence of spotted white muslin, displayed surprising paces. One of the hosts wore a handsome Polish dress trimmed with ermine, while the other figured as "Little Lord Fauntleroy" with a delicious wig. Several courtiers of different countries and centuries graced the scene, one in a magnificent dress of deep crimson, and one in black velvet. A huntsman in scarlet, with riding-crop and cap, looked uncommonly well, as also did a gondolier in a pretty dress of red and white. "Red Tape" proved a most successful get-up and a Windsor uniform was very effective. A jockey appeared to advantage, and various military uniforms brightened the spectacle, a Prussian in blue, a Hussar resplendent in cherry coloured unmentionables with much gold braid, and a Shanghai Light Horseman, whose rig, it is painful to relate, was mistaken by at least one spectator for that of a policeman.

The ladies made a gallant show, but in their case the transformation from ordinary attire is hardly so noticeable. A witch was very good, "Sunlight" shone upon us pleasantly, and "Night" sparkled with moon and stars. Mary of Scotland looked well, and two Follies, dark and fair, (in orange and light blue and white respectively) were exceedingly smart, and their silvery bells made a gay accompaniment. Grace Darling appeared in a characteristic and becoming costume, showing conspicuously the oars which that heroine used so well. A piquante little French fishwife, with a quaint cap, was charming, and a Watteau costume looked beautiful, being admirably suited to the wearer. A flower girl was very pleasing and there were other dresses to which I have not space to do justice. The whole scene was gay and bright, and all the arrangements perfect. A feature of the evening was the *cotillon* with some original figures invented by the energetic leader. There were pretty trifles for the ladies, decorations for the men, and a lovely favour and souvenir of the occasion in the shape of a solid silver cash with four characters delicately frosted on to stand for Yentai and the surnames of our two hosts. The evening will live long in local memory as a most delightful occa-

sion on which we all enjoyed ourselves thoroughly.

We are having heavy snow now and very mild weather.

19th February.

HANGCHOW.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

The sudden drop of thirty degrees in the mercury in the last twenty-four hours brings forcibly to mind the very warm weather which has continued for a month past. Plum trees have been in bloom for six weeks, cherry trees bloomed out a week ago, many trees have put forth new leaves and the buds on trees generally are swelling. Two days ago I saw a butterfly drawing nectar from a dandelion, and a snail crawling in the path. This warm weather has helped the people in two ways—in making less demands for food and clothing and in allowing them to gather better crops from their winter vegetables. As far as one can judge there has been little more suffering this winter than usual, notwithstanding the great floods of the autumn. Hearing, a few days ago, a story that has been current in this region for several years reminded me of an editorial in the *Daily News* on the claims which the Chinese are now advancing to their discovery of all the great inventions of the west, ages ago. They claim that Jesus was originally a Chinaman. The story is this. He preached his doctrines first in China, but the Chinese would not believe him, and they cast him into the sea. He swam across the sea to the foreign country and there preached his doctrines. The foreigners believed him and received his doctrines and now they have come to preach them to us again. Sometimes it is added—This is the reason why the foreigners now are so prosperous.

19th February.

PEKING.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The young Emperor seems, from the frequent edicts in the *Peking Gazette*, to be trying to carry out energetically the administration of the government. It is a great pity his well-intentioned efforts are not seconded by able officials. Reform is said to be impossible and no one attempts it. There is no one who dares to tell the Emperor plainly how matters stand. The officials with but few exceptions are selfishly occupied in providing for themselves and their families; the interests of the Emperor or the State or the people do not concern them. If reform is attempted it is only partial and for a brief season—matters soon lapse into the old condition. The people admire the energy of the Emperor but consider all efforts at amelioration of the present condition of abuses as futile. The decree calling upon the police of the capital to exercise a strict watch over the gambling and opium dens with the view of suppressing crime has temporarily had the effect of closing these places. But ere long these shops will re-open and things go on just as before till some serious crime again calls attention to the subject and then a similar warning will probably be issued. The policy pursued by the Emperor in strictly forbidding settling in Manchuria against the recommendation for the removal of the restrictions against settlers from other parts of the Empire, particularly Shantung, is a retrograde one. No doubt in earlier reigns these lands were exclusively set apart as pasture lands and hunting grounds for the Bannermen, and so long as China remained isolated it did not perhaps much matter whether these three Manchurian provinces were peopled sparsely or not; but now the whole aspect of China's northern frontiers

and her relations with the neighbouring nations have changed and the influx of Chinese in large numbers is most desirable. The people of the famine and inundated provinces of the north require to be settled; the neighbouring provinces of China proper refused to be burdened with them, and the rich lands of Manchuria are lying uncultivated and exposed to grave danger. It is a measure of strategic importance to people these regions with an industrious population. The Chinese government will in another decade or so doubtless learn the folly of their present policy. To expect the Bannermen themselves to introduce agriculture or to improve their condition or to increase their population is vain; the experience of the last century proves this. We have the telegraph now running through Manchuria—the iron horse must follow to enable the produce of the country to be exported to suitable markets. With the advent of the railway, the settling of the country and the advantageous agriculture of the soil and the export of the produce would turn a barren wilderness into a fruitful garden, relieve the congestion and famishing provinces of the north and strengthen and enrich the Empire. But the advisers of the Chinese Emperor have not the knowledge of the facts, and if they have they dare not suggest a different policy.

On the evening of January 31st a paper entitled *The Monetary System of China*, by Prince Lobanow, was read by the Secretary in the unavoidable absence of the writer. The history of Chinese money was ably sketched, and altogether an important contribution was made to the subject. The paper it is hoped will be published in the Society's Transactions. The President remarked on the great differences between the monetary systems of the east and west—noting the great lack of governmental administration in China, the people and the different provinces being left so free, and the infinitesimally small value of the coins, indicating the smallness of trade. Dr. Martin supplemented the paper by interesting historical remarks on the currency, referring to leather and iron money, the present issue of the new regulation cash for the capital, &c. Dr. Dudgeon also took up the question of the iron cash, pointing out that in no sense could it be said that iron cash were substituted for copper cash in the reign of Hien-feng, that such cash were cast in large numbers and were intended to be put in circulation but that the people refused to take them, and therefore it could hardly be said that they were ever in circulation. The smelting of these cash was referred to somewhat minutely by this and the previous speaker. Reference was also made to the mint at Canton established by the late Viceroy, beautiful specimens of the mixed silver coins having been sent to the Emperor; of the various plans proposed by foreigners to give China a new currency of her own in copper, silver and gold, of the proposal to make foreign gold coins legal tender in China. The late panic at the capital when the change in the currency was contemplated was detailed by this and the previous speaker and was entered into still more minutely by Mr. Jordan, who quoted from the *Peking Gazette* the various edicts that had been issued regarding this question. Dr. Dudgeon thought the smallness of the value of the cash indicated the cheapness of living and the great industry of the people, mentioning that one Peking cash would buy as much as a half-penny in England, that is, the necessities of life are five times cheaper in China. These corrections and the valuable additions made, especially to the recent history of the cash question, by the various speakers, it was thought would add to the value of the able paper. In conclusion Mr. Aiken pointed out the anomalies in the cash values round Peking, at Tientsin, Pauting, Kalgan, etc., and specified the various taels

in existence here and at these places, as illustrating the remarks in the paper. The meeting was held at the house of Dr. Martin.

The winter has been extremely mild. The Chinese new year holidays have passed very quietly. The absence of the usual fireworks, ordered by the throne to prevent fires, has been very marked compared with former years. The Chinese say they have not had such a mild winter for forty years. A grand ball took place at the French Legation on 3rd February. Lent is approaching, which will put a stop to our festivities.

5th February.

YOKOHAMA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Much attention is just now being devoted to the northern island, owing to the decision of the government to establish a northern capital there. A leaf is apparently being taken from America's book. By way of facilitating the colonisation and settlement of the place, the existing chief town or capital, Sapporo, is to be passed over, and effort centred upon a comparatively remote though more favoured district. It has always excited wonder in the eyes of some observers that the government did not induce its people to give their own unoccupied and virgin land the benefit of their superfluous energies, in preference to recognising and furthering the scheme which has transplanted hundreds of Japanese to Hawaii. Doubtless the severe winters experienced in Yezo only too effectually deter. The country can scarcely be much colder than the mainland of British Columbia, and certainly less rigorous than Alaska, which is receiving steadily increasing attention from the people of the United States. It is therefore gratifying to observe a definite prospect of a tangible result at last, commensurate with the large expenditure and repeated attempts having for their one object the settlement and development of Hokkaido. The new capital is to be constructed at a place called Kamikawagori in Ishigari province. It will be as near as possible to the centre of the island, and will be distant about 95 miles from the present capital, Sapporo. Ishigari province is said to be exceptionally well located, being bordered on all sides but one by mountainous ranges, and watered by several rivers and tributaries. The area of the plain enclosed by these ranges is estimated at 48,000 acres. The *Jiji* mentions in one of its articles on the subject that the position was chosen five years ago by Mr. Iwamura (the present Minister of State for Agriculture and Commerce) when chief of the Hokkaido Bureau, and Mr. Nakayama, chief of the Militia Office. Since then not a little has been done in the construction and opening of roads and in other work having in view the establishment of the northern capital there. A detached palace is to be erected there as soon as circumstances will permit, while no time is to be lost in the construction of barracks for the accommodation of the military settlers. It is said that the principal river of the province is available during the summer months for small steamer traffic. A highway is to be cut and built through to Nemuro, the flourishing seaport town on the extreme east, and distant about 210 miles from the capital. Railways will afford an outlet on the west. The line in process of being built between Mororan port and Sorachibuto, which was originally expected to take fully three years, is now spoken of as likely to be completed in the course of next year. This line is to be the property of the Hokkaido Colliery and Railway Company, I believe.

The memorable eleventh passed off very quietly, snow interfering with any exten-

sive festivities, as well here as at the capital. There was a special reception in the evening at the Imperial palace, at which the Imperial Princes, the various ministers of State, and the members of the diplomatic corps, accompanied by their respective ladies, were present. The Christians of the metropolis improved the occasion by assembling in several hundreds at Sanno Dai in the Kojimachi district, and marching in a body to Uyeno Park, where sports were engaged in and congratulatory addresses made. The subsequent proceedings of a section of the large body were of a less happy character. Quite a number of members of an Association for the abolition of licensed prostitution paraded the Yoshiwara, crying out *Haisho Bancai* (long life to the work of abolition of prostitution), etc., and delivering speeches upon the subject. This is carrying the war into the enemy's camp with a vengeance.

The vernacular journals announce that M. Bertin, of the Naval Department, will leave for France on the 23rd instant, his term of engagement having expired.

Tramping across the hills not a score of miles away from here a short while since in search of the site of an old castle, which notwithstanding its clearly defined position on an old map has proved a mere will-o'-the-wisp on several occasions, I chanced upon a middle-aged countryman returning with his hard-earned pittance of forty *sen*, the price of a load of firewood conveyed to a town dealer in the morning. We got into conversation, and the old fellow regretted the hardness of the times, as old fellows whether Japanese or European seem prone to. He complained of the cost of food and clothing, and of the greatly enhanced value of land as compared with the prices which ruled before the Restoration. I was seeking to get at a frank expression of opinion as to whether the presence of the foreigner was pleasing or otherwise. The result at first was scarcely encouraging. The old time order of things was by far the best. I manifested surprise and urged as a considerable off-set to existing circumstances and conditions the unquestionable freedom from feudal domination, and the disabilities and cruelties of the arbitrary exercise of despotic power. That was true; but the fact remained that whereas the cost of raw produce had not materially advanced, the prices of land and of the necessities of life had. Was there not greater freedom of travel, greater safety of one's person and of one's property now? Were we not able to tread the by-path we were at the moment traversing with infinitely greater independence and safety than could possibly have been the case, had we been treading it in the days when any minute might bring a haughty *samurai* or perhaps a body of some Daimio's retainers in sight? Ah, undoubtedly we were. Beyond a doubt, too, it was something to be able to have one's children educated so well and so easily. Yes, finally, he was willing to admit that there was much to be urged in favour of the present state of affairs, and after all the market prices of rice and cotton-cloth and land were not everything worth considering in life. Before the old fellow left me he promised to put in a word to check the popular drift of things the next time he hears the villagers picturing the past in the too-rosy hues at the expense of the present. We covered three or four miles together and, thanks partly to the directions he gave me, I succeeded in discovering the long-looked-for site.

18th February.

NORTH BORNEO.

The *British North Borneo Herald and Official Gazette* for January opens with a review of the year 1889. It chronicles the extension of the British Protectorate over British North Borneo, Sarawak and Labuan, the addition of the administration of Labuan to the duties

of Governor Creagh, and the incorporation in the Company's territory of the previously independent state of Padas Damit as a result of the recent little war with Pangeran Shahbander. The rapid progress made with the planting of tobacco and coffee is commemorated, the increase in the export of timber, and the hopes that gold and coal will soon be found in workable quantities. The steam communication with the world has been vastly improved during the year, and it is hoped that Sandakan will soon be a regular port of call between China and Australia. Public works have been energetically proceeded with, and immigration has been carefully fostered, while Sandakan is rapidly growing into a large town. Attention is called to the following official paper which concludes the review of the year:—

RETURNS showing the Revenue and Expenditure, Imports and Exports and other information referring to British North Borneo for the undermentioned years.

Year.	Revenue (proper †)	Land Sales.	Expenditure (proper ‡)	Imports.	Exports.	Principal Products.	Area in square Miles.	Population.
1883	\$ 50,738.20	\$ 25,449.00	\$278,862.94	\$428,889.48	\$159,127.23	Beeswax, Bird-nests (edible), Blackam, Brassware, Bricks, Camphor, Cocoanuts, Coffee, Dammar, Fish salted, Fruits, Gutta Percha, Hides, India Rubber, Ivory, Livestock, Old jars, Pepper, Rattans, Rice and Paddy, Sago, Seed Pearls, Sesik Tingeling, Shark's fins, Shells—Tortoise, and others.	31,106	150,000 Roughly Estimated.
1884	82,448.88	15,458.00	196,239.92	481,413.67	262,785.57	Tobacco, Trepanang, Billian, Cedar and many varieties of other woods.		
1885	110,452.94	2,862.00	208,268.89	648,318.52	401,640.97			
1886	127,731.23	12,034.00	195,803.85	849,115.64	524,724.44			
1887	142,687.20	14,505.00	186,639.64	958,624.76	535,267.00			
1888	148,280.73	246,457.00	208,470.60	1,261,997.56	525,875.95			
1889*	180,000.00	200,000.00	178,000.00	1,500,000.00	800,000.00			
1890	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

* Estimated.
 † Exclusive of sums spent on permanent Public Works.
 ‡ Exclusive of sums realised by Land Sales.

J. W. WILSON,
 Acting Treasurer-General.

THE TREASURY,
 Sandakan, 1st January, 1890.

Next we have a farther instalment of the account of mineral exploration in British North Borneo, the conclusion of which is that there is gold enough in the upper waters of the Segama to repay natives for its search. In the General Notes there is some account of the new club and the new hotel that are to be built at Sandakan, of the deaths by drowning of a seaman of H.M.S. *Hyacinth* and Mr. George McLaren of the *Norman-hurst*, the latter of whom had to cross a pool five feet deep in a canoe on his way to dinner. The canoe was found floating, right side up, and Mr. McLaren's body in the pool. A lot of 117 bales of tobacco from the Marudu Estate, containing 43% broken leaf, had been sold at Rotterdam at 2s. 3d. a pound. There are some interesting experiences of travel "Among the Tingaras of the Quarmote", in which the writer says a good deal about the "very pretty girls", of whom he meets a large number: but in the "Bornean notes from a lady's diary"—which are well worth reading—we find "I am unable to say that these Tingara ladies could boast of great personal attractions". The writer says that she is very fond of durians, and gives the following account of the Sundyak method of ascending the trees—which rise straight up for a hundred feet without throwing out a branch—which was practised for her benefit:—

"Appearing to regard the tree itself as one side of a ladder, they seek to fix the missing side to it, and place the rungs between the two. This they accomplish in the following manner: First of all, they cut a lot of wooden pegs about a foot in length, which they sharpen at one end. These are the rungs, the sharp end of which is driven into the tree about five feet from the ground. A pole some fifteen feet or so long is then tied securely to the outer end of the peg. At intervals of four feet or so apart two more pegs are driven into the tree, the workman ascending on the last peg driven in, when he fixes the one above; and the pole being tied to each of these pegs, there is a ladder left below, 12ft long to begin with. But the most puzzling part of the work now begins. It is all very easy to make the first part of the ladder, with the ground as a support for the first pole; but what support can there be for the second one up in the air? This problem, however, presents no difficulties to the Sundyak's mind. He lashes some three feet of the bottom end of the next pole to the 3ft. of the top end of the first one and then, putting in his rung, ties the second stick to it, and, ascending as before, continues to lengthen his ladder indefinitely. This being accomplished, a second difficulty presented itself, for the tree was full of bull-headed black ants, which fastened with ferocity on everyone who went up; and after a dozen durians had been obtained from the lower branches, the men came out of the tree, declaring that they could not stand the bites of these dreadful ants. But again Mathasan, the slightly built boat-boy, came to the rescue, and, going up, he did not leave the tree until he had thrown down the last durian. When he regained the ground he was perfectly black with ants, which had to be swept off him in handfuls. We all had a fine feast of durians, and returned to the boat happy.

The tonnage record at Sandakan for 1889 shews a total inward of 67,623 tons, and a total outward of 70,343, while the number of public companies in the colony is 27, of which the greater number are for tobacco growing, one is for gold mining, one or two are for trading and planting, and one is a hotel and stores company. There is a considerable amount of information, but it is mainly of local interest, in the *Official Gazette*.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

24th and 25th January.

OFFICERS DETACHED FOR SPECIAL SERVICE IN TIBET.

Ch'ang-k'eng, the Imperial Resident in Tibet, who has only recently reached his post, has applied for the services of a number of officers for dealing with international questions and other matters of pressing importance in that country. The following

have been detailed for employment under his orders: Ying-yü, a Lieutenant-Colonel in the Guards at Peking, a sub-Prefect named Yen Chin-ch'ing who is now serving in Kiangsü, and a magistrate called Ch'ien Tsung-i, who is on the staff of the Turkestan establishment.

ABOLITION OF UNNECESSARY OFFICES.

A Censor, named Kuei-hsien, submits a memorial praying for the abolition of a number of offices which have been created in the neighbourhood of the capital. During the period of military activity caused by the rebellion, offices of all kinds were established for the purchase of materials, the disbursements of funds, and providing for the requirements of an exceptional crisis which has happily passed away. After the rebellion was at an end, the necessity for measures of re-organisation was fixed upon as an excuse for continuing this multiplication of offices, most of which existed merely to furnish appointments for expectant Taotais and officers of that rank. An innumerable crowd of Directors, Superintendents, and Assistants so engrossed the control of public business that the offices of the Financial and Salt Commissioners became mere sinecures, and the holders frequently did little more than give their approval and sign their names. The same was the case with the Judicial Commissioner. Law suits and other matters which properly fell within his province were disposed of by a Board, and the result involved not only a waste of public money but a shuffling of official responsibility. Several Decrees have within the past year been issued against the system of creating unnecessary appointments, but their effect has scarcely been visible, and now under the very shadow of the seat of Government Li Hung-chang has, the Censor learns, authorised the establishment of a number of Boards for examining into the collection of the land tax. The people have become alarmed, and in their ignorance of the written character, have assumed from its title that the new institution is meant to enforce increased payment of the tax. The Censor concludes by requesting that Li Hung-chang should be directed to have all these Boards at once abolished, and that the people everywhere should be informed by proclamation that the provincial authorities will no longer be permitted to delegate their duties to members of the gentry and other irresponsible persons.—Decree already published.

CLOSURE OF BREACHES IN THE YELLOW RIVER IN SHANTUNG.

Chang Yao reports that immediately after the breach in the Yellow River at Tachai in Changch'iu had been closed, he proceeded to take steps for closing the opening at Hsichihfang in the Lich'eng district. The closure of the breach at Changts'un cost Tls. 30,000, that at Tachai entailed an expenditure of Tls. 160,000, and the present one will, it is estimated, require an outlay of Tls. 30,000 making a total of Tls. 220,000 spent in repairing the three openings recently made in the Shantung portion of the river. The works at Hsichihfang are being prosecuted night and day under the superintendence of Chang Shung-ta, the Taotai to whose efficient management the closure of the two previous breaches is chiefly due. Only 600 feet remain to be completed, but the work is attended with great difficulty owing to the scour caused by the current running through the opening which averages a depth of 42 Chinese feet. The Governor hopes, in the course of a fortnight or more, to be able to report the completion of his task, but the vicissitudes to which all Yellow River problems are liable render it impossible to make any accurate forecast.

26th and 27th January
 RETIREMENT OF PRINCE YU.

Prince Yu, who held the office of Sub-Director in the Imperial Clan Court, having

asked permission to retire from the service without a pension, on the ground of continued ill-health, the Emperor has been pleased to accede to his request, and has authorised him to draw half salary until such time as his health may admit of his resuming his duties.

RETENTION IN OFFICE OF A BRIGADIER-GENERAL.

Lo Chin-li, the Brigadier-General at Ichang, recently applied for permission to go into mourning for the death of a parent, and the Emperor, in acknowledging the receipt of the memorial on the subject, informs the applicant that he must continue to act in the post, as his local experience renders it impossible to dispense with his services at the present moment.

A CAPTAIN IN THE ARMY KILLS HIS WIFE AND CHILD AND COMMITS SUICIDE.

The Governor-General at Wuchang reports a tragic occurrence which took place recently at Ch'ichou. A captain in command of the regiment stationed there was seized one morning with a fit of mental derangement during which he killed his wife and his little daughter and afterwards cut his own throat. The soldiers in the barracks were attracted by the shrieks of his victims but did not reach the house in which the deed was committed until all was over. A coroner's inquest was held on the bodies, and the examination of a number of witnesses conclusively proved that the man was of unsound mind when he perpetrated the crime.

REVIEW OF TROOPS AT SHAN-HAI-KUAN.

A review of the troops at Shan-hai Kuan should by standing regulation be held once every autumn, but owing to the prevalence of disease in the neighbourhood no inspection took place last year. The Lieutenant-General in command reports the result of a review which he recently conducted. The troops were tested in gunnery practice, archery, sword and spear exercises, the use of scaling ladders, and other similar performances, in all of which they showed much skill and experience. Their supply of cannon and fire-arms was largely supplemented some little time ago, and their handling of these weapons showed that they were being turned to good account. In volley firing and archery they attained an average of 80 and 90 per cent. respectively.

28th and 29th January.

LIU CHIN-T'ANG, GOVERNOR OF TURKES- TAN, REFUSED PERMISSION TO RETIRE.

Liu Chin-t'ang, the Governor of Turkestan, who recently obtained six months' leave of absence to enable him to visit his native place in Hunan, has submitted an application through the Governor of the latter province for permission to retire from the public service. The grounds on which this application is made are the condition of his grandmother's health and the necessity for bestowing personal attendance upon her during the remainder of her life. The Emperor professes to be much affected by the sincerity and earnestness of the touching appeal made to him by his servant, but adds that there would be great difficulty in finding a suitable successor to Liu Chin-t'ang, whose reputation stands so deservedly high throughout Turkestan. He regrets, therefore, being unable to accede to such a reasonable request, grants the applicant four months' extension of leave and sends him a present of eight ounces of ginseng for his aged grandmother.

APPOINTMENTS.

Prince Ch'ing, the President of the Taungli Yamén, has been promoted to the post of Senior Vice-President of the Imperial Clan Court in succession to Prince Yü, who recently retired, and his former place as Junior Vice-President has been bestowed upon the *peilé* Yi-yü.

FAILURE TO FORWARD RETURNS OF WAR HORSES.

The President of the Board of War and his colleagues complain bitterly of the sh-

shortage of punctuality in the transmission of returns from the various provinces. By fixed regulation the returns of cavalry horses ought to reach the Board in the tenth month of every year, so that it may be in a position to present a collective report to the Emperor by the end of the year.

The delays which have been experienced in the receipt of these returns have formed the subject of successive Decrees issued during the last quarter of a century, none of which seem to have had any real effect. Nearly all the provinces are many years in arrear in this respect, the worst offender being Chihli, whose last return was sent in 1856. The Board points out that the matter is one which is intimately connected with the question of army reform and expresses a hope that the Emperor will issue an order under which the return for last year is to be supplied within three months.—*Decree issued separately.*

RETURNS OF HORSES EMPLOYED IN THE GOVERNMENT POSTAL SERVICE.

The returns of the horses employed by the Government couriers ought to reach the Board of War in the fifth month of the year following that for which they are furnished. The district officers are held responsible for making punctual reports on the subject to their superiors, and the latter are bound by regulation to transmit these returns without delay to the Board. Edict after edict has been issued during the past few years calling for greater punctuality in the transmission of these reports, but notwithstanding the threats of the punishment to be inflicted for failure to supply them, the Board of War now states that scarcely a province has sent a complete return for years past. The Board proposes to address a further remonstrance to the provinces on the subject, and asks for permission to warn the authorities concerned that they may expect to be sharply denounced to the Throne if they fail to forward full reports on the subject within a period of six months from the date on which they receive the Board's despatch.

HEROIC DEATH OF THE CONCUBINE OF THE LATE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF CHIH-LI.

Li Hung-chang reports that the concubine of Li Ch'ang-lo, the late Commander-in-Chief of Chihli, who was only 31 years of age and had been always noted for her virtuous conduct, on hearing of her husband's illness journeyed night and day till she reached his bedside, just in time to be present at his death. She showed her determination not to survive his departure, and although her friends used every possible means to dissuade her from her purpose, she poisoned herself on the following day. The Magistrate and gentry of the district have presented a petition to the Viceroy, in which they ask that permission may be granted for the erection of a monument to the lady's memory, and in supporting the application, His Excellency dwells upon the meritorious and devoted conduct which she exhibited in nobly sacrificing her life through grief for the death of her lord.—*Granted by Rescript.*

30th and 31st January.

PUNISHMENT OF FINANCIAL COMMISSIONERS FOR FAILURE TO SUPPLY FUNDS.

The Emperor orders that the Financial Commissioners of Kiangsi and Chékiang shall each be deprived of two steps of commutative rank for their failure to remit the sums which their respective provinces were called upon to furnish as mining capital for Yünnan. The arrears due on this account are to be cleared off within a specified period.

TEMPLE TO MAGISTRATE WHO FELL IN BATTLE.

A number of gentry belonging to the province of Kueichow recently presented a petition to the Censorate asking that the Throne might be moved to sanction the erection of a memorial temple to Chiang Chia-ku, a Magistrate who fell fighting

against the Taipings in the year 1854. They quoted a number of precedents in favour of their application, which, having been submitted to the Throne by the Censorate, received the approval of the Emperor.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TOWARDS RELIEF OF DISTRESS IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui reports that sums contributed by the province of Chihli towards the relief of the famine which prevailed last year in Anhui, amounted to a total of Tls. 81,690, of which the following subscriptions formed a portion: Li Hung-chang, Tls. 7,850; Tséng Kuc-ch'ian (second subscription), Tls. 2,000; Ch'en-i, Tls. 1,000; A-K'ota-ch'un, the Lieutenant Governor of Anhui, Tls. 600; Chang Yomen, the Chief Justice, Tls. 400; Brigadier-General Jên Tsu-wén, Tls. 500 and Tls. 700; Li Tsung-chang, 5,000 piculs of rice; and Tai Tsung-t'êng, an expectant Taotai, Tls. 3,000.

Meetings.

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Council held in the Board Room, No. 23, Kiangse Road, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 19th February, 1890, at 4 o'clock p.m.

Present:—Messrs. J. Macgregor (Chairman), M. Adler, D. Brand, J. W. Harding, D. C. Jansen, W. McDonald, J. Welch, G. H. Wheeler, and E. H. Lavers, member of the Council for 1889, and the Secretary.

The *Summons* calling the meeting is taken as read.

The *Minutes* of the last meeting are read, confirmed, signed by the Chairman and passed for publication.

Mr. Macgregor, Chairman of the outgoing Council says, that this concludes the business of the Council for 1889.

Mr. Lavers says, that before leaving, he wishes to express the gratification he has experienced in serving on the Council under the Chairmanship of Mr. Macgregor, and his satisfaction at the manner in which all the business of the Council has been conducted during the past year. Mr. Macgregor, having expressed the regret of the Council at losing the services of Mr. Lavers, the members proceed to the Yard of the Central Station, where the Police force is drawn up for inspection.

After going through the ranks and inspecting the different branches of the force, Mr. Macgregor as Chairman of the Council for 1889, says, that he has much pleasure in expressing to Captain McEuen the satisfaction of the Council at the smart appearance presented by the men on parade. He also congratulates the men upon there having been so few complaints made against any of them during the past year, and he feels confident that they will continue to conduct themselves in the same satisfactory manner during the present year.

He is glad that the New Leuza Station has been completed where comfortable quarters are provided for part of the force, and he hopes that in the course of this year a new Central Station will be built, where equally comfortable quarters will be provided for the remainder of the force.

Captain McEuen having thanked the Chairman for the complimentary terms in which he has spoken of the Police force, the members of Council proceed to inspect the Sergeants' and Constables' quarters which are found to be clean and in good order, the Armoury is then visited, when the arms, accoutrements, etc., are found to be in very good order, and after inspecting the prisoners' cells, &c., the Council return to the Board Room and proceed to elect the following office-bearers to serve during the current year:—

Chairman—Mr. John Macgregor.
Vice-Chairman—Mr. M. Adler.
Finance Committee—Messrs. G. H. Wheeler, J. Welch, and Ph. Lieder.

Works Committee—Messrs. J. Macgregor, J. W. Harding and D. Brand.

Defence and Watch Committee—Messrs. M. Adler, W. McDonald and D. C. Jansen.

Cash Statement for the past week is submitted, and cheques for sundry accounts are signed.

Return of Prisoners apprehended and Police daily reports for the past week are submitted.

Asylum for Lunatics.—The following letter is ordered to be published:—

Shanghai, 12th February, 1890.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of this date, No. 90/41, informing me that the Council are prepared to take into consideration, in conjunction with the Governors of the General Hospital, the possibility of establishing an Asylum for lunatic patients, and proposing a conference between yourself, myself and the Medical officers of the Council and the General Hospital.

I shall gladly attend such a meeting, which, as I was informed by you this morning, you are taking steps to arrange.

I am, Dear Sir, Yours faithfully, FRED. H. BELL.

JOHN MACGREGOR, Esq., Chairman, Shanghai Municipal Council.

Volunteers.—The annexed letter is read and ordered to be published:—

Shanghai, 18th Feb, 1890.

SIR,—I have the honour to inform you that at a meeting of No. 1 Company, Mii-ho-loong Rifles, held yesterday, Mr. Dudgeon, whose commission had expired under the three years' rule, on the 3rd inst., was unanimously re-elected to the post of Captain.

The Council will no doubt fully approve the action of the Company and I enclose Mr. Dudgeon's commission in order that it may be endorsed for a further period of 3 years in the usual manner.

I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

G. JAMES MORRISON, Major Commanding, S. F. C.

JOHN MACGREGOR, Esq., Chairman of the Municipal Council.

Decided to comply with these requests; and commission is then renewed for a further term of three years, and ordered to be forwarded.

Works Matters.—The following report by the Surveyor giving particulars of the works completed during January and of those now in progress is submitted and ordered to be published:—

The following works have been completed: Bridges.—Small repairs have been made to the North Szechuen Road bridge.

Buildings.—Repairing, painting &c., Chief Inspector's quarters and laying new floor to Store room, Central Police Station.

Buildings.—Renewing 3 stringers to hardwood bunding North Yangtze Road.

Drainage.—Fixing iron covers to sinks in the Foochow, Siking, Kiangse, Pekin, Nankin, Honan, Ningpo, Szechuen and Seward Roads. 12' drain pipes have been laid at junction of North Szechuen and Boone Roads.

New Public Garden.—Laying drain pipes in the New Public Garden, on Ince's Foreshore.

Chip-paving.—Footpath Pekin Road near Shansue Road.

Curb, &c. has been repaired in the Pekin, Ningpo, Szechuen and Kiangse Roads to suit new iron sink covers.

Roads.—Erecting iron railing to culvert Woosung Road, near Rifle Range.

Trees have been planted on the Bubbling Well, Sinza, Markham, Defence, Soochow and Seward Roads.

The works in progress are:—

Buildings.—Repairing floor to Cells, Central Police Station.

Buildings.—Erecting stone landing steps to North Soochow Road bunding in front of the Tien-how Temple.

Cemeteries.—Rebuilding Chapel in the New Cemetery.

New Public Garden.—Forming paths, &c. in the New Public Garden on Ince's Foreshore.

Drainage.—Altering and building new sinks in Kiangse Road. Cleaning Broadway drain from Garden Bridge to Tiendong Road.

Roads.—Raising with earth the Boone Road Extension, between North Szechuen and Chapoo Roads.

Chip-paving.—Repairing chip-paving Tiendong Road, west of Woosung Road; and Honan Road, from Canton to Sungkiang Road.

Curb &c. Repairing curb, &c., in Kiangse Road to suit new iron sink covers. Laying curb, &c., in North Szechuen and Broadway Roads.

Metalling.—Yangtze Road from Sungkiang to Canton Road.

Repairing.—Generally repairing the various roads in and outside the settlements.

The Meeting then adjourned.

Cattle in Native Dairies.—The following report is ordered to be published with the foregoing minutes:—

RETURN OF ANIMALS KEPT AT THE NATIVE DAIRIES Shanghai, 22nd February, 1890.

Table with columns: Remarks, Buffaloes, English cows, English calves, etc. and rows listing various dairies like New Seward Road, Ince's Foreshore, etc.

During the past week I have inspected the cattle kept in the above mentioned dairies and found them healthy, and in good condition.

JOHN HOWES, Inspector of Markets.

THE RATEPAYERS' MEETING.

II.

Mr. PURDON—I have only to repeat the substance of what I said this morning, when seconding Mr. Drummond's amendment. The manner in which Mr. Drummond has proposed the resolution leaves the seconder very little to say on the subject. If it is desirable to have a Town Hall, the only thing is to get the plans and estimates to begin with. That was done in 1873, when the subject was first mooted; and the

principle contained in Mr. Drummond's resolution was approved in 1874.

Mr. MACGREGOR—I should have been very glad if some ratepayers had got up to speak on the resolution, if they have, as I believe they have, many of them, decided objections to this being passed. However, as no ratepayer has done so, the duty seems to devolve upon me. I would preface what I have to say by saying that I have no objection whatever to the method in which Mr. Drummond proposes to proceed with such an undertaking; and if I did this morning with perhaps what seemed unwise insistence propose the terms of the motion we had, it was with a strong feeling of duty that it was necessary to do so, to proceed with the work at once. We have had experience already of what results from advertising for plans and estimates, and I do not wish again that we should bring about any abortive result. It may seem ungracious that I should object to what does not involve the expenditure of any money but I would ask the ratepayers to remember that if a resolution of this kind is passed, it will be the duty of the Council to pursue the object to be attained with all diligence and to carry it out. I submit that the regular work which the Council will have to undertake for the coming year is sufficient of itself to warrant me in saying that I shall be obliged to oppose this motion. I did not catch what was the remark Mr. Drummond said Mr. Clark made to him. Apparently Mr. Clark had been in the habit of dropping casual remarks which were inconvenient and not quite consistent with what he stated to the Council; but I do not know that is a matter of any moment.

The expenditure which has been authorised in connection with the police station will add to the funded debt of the community, which, as Mr. Probst says, he considers already high enough. I presume, therefore, he will not be in favour of proceeding with a step which will, or might, land us almost immediately in the expenditure necessary to erect a Town Hall and Municipal buildings. I conceive it will be the duty of the Council, in asking for plans or estimates or whatever it may be in connection with the new Central Police Station, to give a general direction that the plans be so designed as to fit in with an extension for municipal purposes when the proper time arrives. (Hear, hear). That time, I conceive, has not yet come. There are so many things before us, objects of usefulness and necessity, that I am afraid we must deny ourselves the luxury of a Town Hall for some little time to come. Our Chairman in his opening remarks this morning, alluded to a very important question which will come up for discussion at an early date, namely, the acquisition by the community of the Waterworks (Applause). I express no opinion as to the propriety or otherwise of such a step, but I indicate it to show there are grave questions ahead of us that might demand the expenditure of money on operations which might become too heavy to be borne; not that I fear; the credit of the community is good, and the security is ample. I am obliged to say that at present I shall vote against the Council being saddled with this, which I think would be only a step that would lead to nothing. I hope I have made myself heard; I have occasionally seen a gentleman at the back putting his hand to his ear, and if I have raised my voice occasionally I hope it will not be taken to indicate temper. (Laughter.)

Mr. KINGSMILL—I think it is premature at present to take the matter in hand. The Council, I may state, about twelve years ago advertised for designs for municipal premises. These designs were sent in, and one of them was chosen as the best, but for certain reasons, which were utterly beyond the control of the Council, they were never able to proceed. Now in this case I believe the finances of the settlement

are sufficiently good to enable them to go on, but I am quite sure that all the rate-payers present here will agree with me that the site of the municipal buildings is a matter to be settled first, and for my part I am sure that a great many here are not at all convinced that the property of the Municipal Council in the Kiangse Road as it is at present is suitable for the erection of permanent buildings. The requirements of the community will need more ground than there is at present in the possession of the Council, and whether the buildings can be on their present site or elsewhere will be a matter to be considered before any designs for buildings which may or may not be erected are asked for.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and after the show of hands,

The CHAIRMAN said—I think it right to say I had some difficulty in deciding as to the preponderance of the show of hands. Apparently there is no doubt the resolution was lost by the show of hands.

Mr. DRUMMOND—I now have to move Resolution No. 12, which I will read

Resolution XII.—That the Municipal Council be requested to purchase the property known as lot number 1313 in the books of the British Consulate, at a price not exceeding Tls. 25,500 of Shanghai sycee. And to issue debentures if necessary to an amount not exceeding Tls. 20,000, and to pay the balance of the purchase money out of the ordinary revenue.

That is a question on which I think it is more than probable everyone present here now has as nearly as possible if not entirely made up his mind, and it is necessary for me to say very little indeed, those who pass up and down the Maloo every day being probably satisfied by the use of their own eyesight. The Chairman of the Council at the last special ratepayers' meeting in this hall asked for an informal expression of opinion from the rate-payers as to whether they thought it desirable that the Council should buy the land or not. It was put in a very informal way, but it was very sensible and practical, and it obtained for the Chairman of the Council what he wanted. The Council thereupon took measures and came to the conclusion that the price for which they could get the land, which I think was the same as now, was too high. They no doubt considered it was an excessive price, and one at which they did not feel justified in purchasing the property. They therefore refused to do it. Some informal step was taken with reference to the subject by some people who interested themselves in the matter, and a letter was taken round and signed by a considerable number, I think thirty members of the community, and which ended in the short sentence, "we advocate the purchase of the land." This was done with the knowledge, apparently, of the actual cost of the land. That letter met with a reply from the Council which confirmed their previous view that they were of opinion that the price was an excessive one, and therefore they were not prepared to sanction the purchase. The matter therefore remains in that state. It is one upon which public opinion has been a great deal divided, the Council being of opinion, I do not know whether unanimously or not, that the amount was one they would not be justified in paying. The public, or at any rate a larger number than the Council, considered it was a good price. It is obvious, therefore, that a considerable difference of opinion exists. With reference to that I may mention the opinion I have already quoted once to-day on another matter. Mr. Wood, as he was leaving the room after the informal expression of opinion was given, referring to the Police Station said, "We undoubtedly built a finer building than we intended, but the only thing is to get the Council to buy the land." (Hear, hear). Coming from him it struck me forcibly. I think on the whole, and

taking into consideration all the circumstances, although the price is a large one and the land could have been bought at a smaller price before, the question is; Is it worth the money? In the history of the settlement it has nearly always been the case that where the Council have bought the land they have done the right thing, and the land has proved to be far more valuable as Municipal property than it was at the time it was purchased. (Hear, hear). On the other hand, I think it may be said to be the almost equally invariable rule that where the Council have refused to purchase land they have made a mistake. We have various instances in various parts of the settlement. The narrowness of Nanking Road is a matter of daily inconvenience to us. It was a fatal blunder that land there was not acquired at the time it could have been acquired. That argument could be repeated over and over again. Property has been refused on the ground that at the moment the price asked was too great. The two lots which are now adjoining the Municipal Council offices could at one time have been bought for a sum which may be described as a fraction of the price at which they can be purchased to-day; and that they are wanted badly or will be wanted badly is without doubt. It will be an absolute impossibility for the Council to acquire them now; and secondly, the property is depreciated for ever. This applies distinctly to this place. It has already been shown that if the piece of land in front is purchased and added to the present lot on which the station is built the total cost of the whole property is very considerably below the actual value of the property to-day. That is a very striking fact and goes very far to show that the acquisition of this piece of land would be a sound piece of finance. The 7 mow 7 fun of the Racquet Court lot cost Tls. 13,485; the remainder Tls. 25,500, making a total of Tls. 38,985. Deducting Tls. 1,985, the value of the buildings, the total cost of the land will be Tls. 37,000. I am told by those who are better informed on the subject than I am that that is considerably below the value of the property to-day. If therefore the price is paid for this piece and it is added to the Municipal lot the Municipality will own a piece of property at considerably below its actual market value. With regard to the building itself; it is there and cannot be removed. It is a large, and handsome building, and I think it is the desire of a great many members of the community that the public should have the building in view. If the piece of land in front is allowed to remain in its present ownership it will be covered with ordinary Chinese houses which will be built upon to the edge of the road and will probably exclude the view of the building to a greater extent than the Racquet Court itself. If the land is purchased it may necessitate the removal of the adjoining buildings, but it is not necessary to consider that at present. If it is desirable to extend the accommodation of the Municipal Council in regard to land, it might enable that to be done by clearing this piece of ground, because it would enable a large drill ground to be made there. I am not sure whether that as a practical measure is one on which opinion is strongly formed as to whether it will be a drill ground for the Volunteers or police, but it might become a useful site for the purpose. The last point I would refer to is this. Is it suitable and consistent that this property should be built over by common Chinese houses, and that the approach to the fine new building we have should be obscured? There is a small narrow road approaching it, so that the approach to the building will be something like a Chinese alley-way to get to the police station, and I do not think that is a suitable or proper method. I venture to suggest that it would be a really practical and useful measure for the community to acquire

this piece of land; and it would be a solid and good investment. (Applause.)
 Mr. R. M. CAMPBELL—You have already heard twice to-day that Mr. Drummond so thoroughly enters into any subject that he leaves very little for his secondor to say. I think he has said more than enough to convince any mind open to conviction in this matter. The question has been largely discussed amongst the community and I think, in fact I know, there is a very strong feeling on the subject. I do not mean an unfriendly feeling, because amongst the community the feeling is almost unanimous, I think, that the land should be acquired by the Municipality for public purposes. The resolution has not the advantage of being recommended by the Council, and the Council have taken some action in the matter which may make it appear that this resolution was in opposition to them. I for one, after what was said this morning, would like to say I am so sensible of the care and consideration the Council give to all matters that come before them, that I would not lightly enter into opposition to them; but I understand the Council will look upon this resolution as very satisfactory evidence of the interest taken in the government of the settlement by the rate-payers, and not as opposition. There was one thing Mr. Drummond said in his opening that he did not know, which was whether the Council were unanimous in refusing to entertain the purchase or not. I think it is stated in the budget that the price named was not considered reasonable by the majority of the Council, and therefore the implication is that the Council were not unanimous. That is on page 130. For obvious reasons the Council could hardly recommend the ratepayers to purchase the property at the price named and I myself think they were quite right in declining to purchase it when it was offered to them at Tls. 25,000, because the offer was made to them in a manner which did not pay the Council the respect which is their due. When an offer is made to a body like the Council they should not be told they must send an answer before they have time to properly consider it; and as far as that is concerned they have our entire approval. The matter has been thoroughly discussed by the community and no doubt most people have made up their minds, and therefore I will not say any more except that I do not think any reason we know of exists why we should not take the opportunity of buying the property. (Applause.)

Mr. HERTZ—I rise to ask—
 Mr. ADLER—Are you a ratepayer?
 Mr. HERTZ—Yes, I am a ratepayer; I have a voting paper in my pocket.
 Mr. BRAND—Mr. Hertz should address himself to the chair.
 The CHAIRMAN—Will you please address the chair?
 Mr. HERTZ—I ask if the sum was Tls. 25,000 or Tls. 25,500.
 The CHAIRMAN—The sum in the resolution is Tls. 25,500; the same sum before and the same after.
 Mr. HERTZ—Oh, that's all? I did not quite catch it.
 Mr. PROBST—If I remember rightly, at the last meeting Mr. Macgregor, the Chairman of the Council, said he had been asked to put it before the meeting to obtain an expression of feeling from the meeting. Those who were present were, I think, rather surprised by the question put, and I think the show of hands was not a true expression of opinion, a great many people having already left the hall. No expression of opinion was given at that time by the Municipal Council, either by Mr. Macgregor or anybody else. I make that remark because the meeting might be under the impression that such was the case—that it had been put forward as a question favoured by the Municipal Council, which I do not think it was. Mr.

Drummond, in moving the present proposition, said something was very obvious without saying exactly what it was. I have been down the Maloo and I have seen since the Racquet Court has been taken down that it would be a great mistake to take this plot of land as it stands at present. It would be exceedingly unpicturesque and ugly if we had an open plot of ground with the walls of the enclosure as it at present stands. Considerable alterations would have to take place. If the plea is put forward that this plot of land should be left open for a parade ground, that is no plea whatever, I say; you have only to go a few yards further and you have a far better parade ground inside the Race Course. As to the former mistakes of the Council, I think his remarks lead up to the reply that the Council had to buy a considerable portion of the Settlement to provide for the extension of roads. I do not think the Council can be called upon to buy every lot of land about. I do not think the Municipal Council should in any way be put in the position of investors, that should be left to Land Investment Companies and other bodies. If later on, the Council have to buy a piece of land because it is an absolute necessity they have to pay the market price for it; but we have not to look five or ten years ahead as to what may be the requirements of the Settlement. I do not think anything has been put forward that would justify the purchase of this piece of ground. I do not think the sum even enters into the consideration at all. If the ground is absolutely required it is not £14,200,000 or £15,30,000 we have to pay for it; we have to have it. I have not heard anybody put forward an argument that justifies this expenditure, and until I have heard the plea in favour of it put forward in better terms than it has been so far, I do not feel inclined to support the motion.

Mr. KINGSMILL—I do not think the proposer of the resolution has the faintest idea of its importance; that is, the inadvisability of bringing forward at a meeting of ratepayers anything connected with the buying or selling of ground. It is a principle which if once established would lead year by year to still greater and greater abuses. I have every reason to believe that this property could have been bought at the sum originally named. I have every reason to believe that if the meeting were prepared to place it in the hands of the Municipal Council the Council would be able to acquire the ground at its fair value. It is very inadvisable that questions of the market value of property should be raised or discussed in meetings of this kind. I think the Municipal Council have, in refusing to be bound by a catch resolution, acted perfectly within their rights; and it is a matter which should be left entirely in their hands.

Mr. MACGREGOR—It may be expected that I should say a word. I think I am right in saying that in the published minutes of the Council it was stated that an informal motion was taken that the land in question had been offered to the Council for £15,20,000 and they did not see their way to accept it. Following upon that, the steps took place which Mr. Drummond has mentioned to you. I do not intend to say anything further than this: that the Council have not seen their way to change the opinion expressed already on the subject. I do not wish to enter into the pros and cons or argue the subject, because it is unpleasant to be at odds with a large section of the public who seem to have a sentiment on this matter.

On a show of hands being taken the resolution was declared carried. Mr. Adler and Mr. Probst demanded a poll, when the numbers were:—For the resolution, 99; against, 129. The resolution was therefore lost.

Mr. S. DYER—I have now to move resolution No. 13, which I will read—

Resolution XIII.—Whereas the toleration and regulation of prostitution are opposed alike to the principles of British and American common law, and to the law of God; and

Whereas it becomes the citizens of Great Britain and America in individual and corporate action to respect and not to violate the laws of the countries to which they belong, and under whose protection, practically and ultimately, they are residing in this Settlement; and

Whereas the keeping of brothels is an infraction of the covenant by which authorisation is granted to build within this Settlement houses or shops for the occupation of Chinese, and to lease or let the same, by the representatives of His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of China,

Therefore,

Resolved that the Municipal Council be, and is hereby, instructed to discontinue at once the toleration and regulation of prostitution, and to treat brothel-keeping as an unlawful occupation, convicted and condemned by the Christian religion, by all Chinese codes of morality, and by the jurisprudence of Great Britain and America, and as a dishonourable violation of a covenant with Chinese Imperial authority.

This resolution might have added one thing more—that prostitution is contrary to the principles of Chinese law. It must be evident to us all that this evil is spreading to immense proportions. It prevails all around us so that we cannot walk the streets of this settlement without seeing this evil on every side; and as it has grown to such immense proportions already it is impossible to say to what extent it will grow if it is not checked. It is high time that something be done to check this evil thing. It is a matter for which we all ought to be deeply ashamed, for the existence in our midst of this terrible thing. I believe Sir, that I am right in saying that the Taotai of Shanghai wrote either to the Municipal Council or the Consul in regard to the great evil as it exists at the present time in the settlement, and referred to the great mischief it was doing to the sons of respectable gentlemen. This is a matter for deep shame, that the Taotai of Shanghai should have to write to us about such a thing as that—to us belonging to civilised society. Besides that, Sir, I am informed that it is a fact that no brothel is allowed in the city. Here are we, a civilised community, and there is a semi-civilised community and yet in that semi-civilised community not a brothel is allowed and here are we with hundreds of them all about us. Is not that a matter, sir, for deep, intense shame? I might add another fact. This evil is spreading abroad throughout the whole country round, and the people all know it, so that foreigners travelling in the country for a long distance from Shanghai are accused of this—that Shanghai is a wicked place and especially Foochow Road. This is a great shame. We look upon this settlement as a model settlement, and so it is. There is no doubt it is the model settlement of the East, but if in the background of all our splendid buildings, all our fine roads, all our capital administration and regulations this tremendous evil is allowed to assert itself as a great canker destroying the whole of society, then, sir, what is our model settlement, but varnish and veneer covering over rottenness? In this resolution as read it is stated that the keeping of brothels is an infringement of the covenant by which authorisation is granted to build. This is a thing known to most of us present that the act of authorisation, which must be obtained before any permission is granted to build or let or lease, specially excepts brothels. The thing that would lead me almost more than anything else to desire that such a resolution as this should not only be brought before you, but passed, is the fact that in the midst of us, in connection with this great evil, there exists a system of degrading slavery. Now we as natives of civilised countries advocate liberty. If there is one

thing which we advocate more than another it is liberty. But in the midst of us there are hundreds, aye thousands, of women and girls held down in slavery and compelled to lead this wicked life *volens volens*. Now, sir, if we, belonging to civilised countries, think so much of our liberty, if those of us who belong to England have made it impossible for a slave to exist on British soil—or American soil either—we who belong to those countries should give ourselves no rest until we have altered the present state of things in Shanghai. It may be argued that the Municipal Council has no authority in the matter. Anyone who make such a misstatement as that must labour under a very grave misapprehension of the facts. I suppose all of us know the Chinese have no right to be living in the settlement at all. According to the original Land Regulations, they have no right to be here. I am confident there is no one here who desires the Chinese to be out of the settlement; but if they have no right to be here, then the Municipal Council has a perfect right to say whether they shall do wrong or not. The Municipal Council takes in hand the prevention of wrong. If a man steals or does other improper things, they get the Chinese authorities to put such men in gaol. They even go so far, and most rightly, as to put down gambling; they even go into men's houses and take gamblers and put them into gaol. Why should they not have the authority to do so with this still greater evil? It will be perhaps urged that the Council, while having the authority, have not the power or the ability to do so. Now that thing which has been can be. I am informed that in Colombo the authorities are at this present time putting down brothels in that place, and that it is stated that as the consequence of their action the morality of Ceylon has a ready improved. I may also mention another fact—that in the town of Aberdeen in Scotland the superintendent of police has, apparently almost single handed, put an end to all or nearly all the brothels in that place. This has been done and therefore it can be done. If there were any doubt about the possibility of the Council being able to do it, we can give them authority to increase their police, to make them double, quadruple, or to any extent that is necessary in order to gain the point of putting down whatever evil there may be among us. I have left to the last the one thing that is the most important of all. This resolution says, "that the toleration of prostitution is contrary to the law of God." I am sure it is not necessary for me to say one word to prove that. I believe that every man's conscience will allow that it is true. But may I be allowed to say one thing? No ruler can or does look with indifference upon the infringement of his laws. Much less can we expect the one ruler, who sees all things and who is all powerful, to neglect or look with indifference upon the infringement of his laws. The whole history of the world brings forward instance after instance of the Almighty's judgments falling upon the nations and cities of this world in consequence of their iniquities, and I ask, shall Shanghai be free? If we allow the evil to grow and grow until the whole city is utterly bad—for evil communications corrupt good manners—what can we look for but the same judgment to be brought upon Shanghai as upon other nations? I call upon every ratepayer as one man to stand up and side with this resolution in order that this terrible evil may be taken away from our midst so that no longer we shall have to feel that we are acting contrary to the liberty which we profess to believe in as British or Americans and no longer be opposed to God Almighty.

Mr. FITCH—I rise to second the resolution and as I do so I realise that there are very grave objections to it—among others that

the man who makes this resolution and the people who uphold it are looked upon as fanatics, if not fools; fanatics for their opinions and fools for their pains—that it will simply amount to nothing and that it is dragging before the public a very disagreeable subject, for which there is no hope. Is it a fact that the governing body of Shanghai has so little power that it is unable to cope with this? It is certainly a gigantic evil, which has been corrupting more and more not only the Chinese but the foreign young men who come to Shanghai. Brothels to the right of you and brothels to the left of you, and yet when a man gets up and denounces these things he is branded as a fanatic or fool! When a man gets up in public like this he might almost be said to shrink from speaking on such a subject lest he corrupt the mind and body of the public. Is it true that the minds of Shanghai foreigners are so pure that a subject like this cannot be touched upon for fear it would be corrupting somebody, or that it is so offensive to the many that they will not touch it except with a pair of tongs? Let us be honest with ourselves and with the Chinese who live about us. It was my lot to live for some eleven years in the city of Soochow, and yet I never passed a house there which might be called a brothel. I heard there were some in some houses with small doors which no man could enter without bowing his head. No upright man could enter there. As Mr. Dyer says, they point to Shanghai as a place steeped in iniquity. Even the Chinese themselves shake their heads at it, and the possibility of their sons or daughters going there. I have known many a bright young man coming to Shanghai and being totally ruined, while, living in the midst of the heathen population, he would have been comparatively safe. I think we do well to bring the subject before the ratepayers of Shanghai and before the community and may it to however limited an extent bring liberty to the multitudes who are suffering.

Rev. J. M. W. FARNHAM—There is one feature of this case which is worthy of particular mention. From all I hear I have good reason to believe that these brothels are recruited almost entirely from little girls, kidnapped from distant cities, and even Shanghai, and secreted and brought up for this purpose. Now, sir, imagine for a moment a little girl in infancy taken away from her home or sold by her ignorant parents, under the promise of marriage perhaps, and brought up like an innocent lamb for the slaughter. If there were ever a class of people in the world that appealed to our sympathies it is this; and such a noble community as Shanghai should be moved to do something. Something can be done; we are all in earnest about this matter, in saving those who are forced into this slavery without possible escape. I know a young girl at Peking, of good family and good education, who was contracted in marriage with a man who, it was then found, had been married to another woman in Shanghai. What could the girl do but marry the man and help him to commit bigamy? There was no possible escape but suicide; she could have taken opium, but there was no other escape I could see. She married him, and it would take a long time to recount to you all the terrible trial and affliction she passed through. If there is anything that can be done it must be done from the outside. These girls we are speaking of are enslaved; their fetters are not only locked and riveted upon them but are welded, and nothing but some outside hand can take them off; and God give us grace to devise some plan that may better these things!

Rev. W. B. BONNELL—I will not touch the question of religion at all, but I appeal to every lover of decency and order and morality, I appeal to every man who loves the wife of his bosom, I appeal to every

man who has children walking these streets and seeing these miserable victims of this great curse of Shanghai, to assist us in doing what we can to put down this enormous evil.

Mr. MACGREGOR—It is my duty to say something with reference to this motion. All I can say is that in this so-called resolution there are statements that are not true, and statements which are not fact have been made in support of it. These, however, I do not propose to follow. The policy of the Council in connection with this unhappy matter is one that is well known. It is as far as possible both humane and benevolent, and they have no intention of proceeding upon any other course or altering the policy they have hitherto pursued. I do not intend to continue the discussion. I hope it will go to the vote.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and declared lost by the show of hands.

Mr. DYER—I call for a poll.

Mr. BRAND—I think it is in the option of the Chairman to declare that a poll is not necessary, provided he thinks so.

Mr. MACGREGOR—Rule 14 of the Rules of Procedure says, "On all questions of order the decision of the Chairman shall be final, unless overruled by three-fourths of the voters present or represented." I do not think this is quite in the technical sense a question of order, but I appeal to the mover of the resolution to say whether it is really worth his while to take up the time of the meeting by calling for a poll. The Chairman has decided it is lost.

Mr. FARNHAM—Read Rule No. 9 of the regulations.

Mr. DYER was understood to say he still demanded a poll.

The CHAIRMAN—As a poll has been insisted upon, I am of opinion that we should have it. A ratepayer has a right to call for a poll.

The votes were then taken with the following result: For the resolution, 16; against, 160. The resolution was therefore lost.

Rev. J. M. W. FARNHAM—I now propose—

Resolution XII.—Whereas the largely increasing opium traffic in the Settlement is destructive to the welfare of the community, is calculated to produce the most serious moral and material results, and is prejudicial to foreign interests in China,

Therefore,

Resolved that the Municipal Council be, and is hereby instructed to put an end to this traffic in the Settlement and to prohibit all opium shops and places for the sale of opium.

A writer in the *Daily News* has characterised us as "fanatics" and "a fresh importation of morality." However much of a fanatic I am, I am certainly not a very fresh importation of morality. Let us not call each other names.

The CHAIRMAN—Mr. Farnham, will you please address the chair?

Mr. FARNHAM—I will, sir. Let us not I beseech you call each other names. Let us approach this subject politely. Let us seek to know what is true and what is our duty in the matter, and do it. I know that some will say, Mr. Chairman, that if only taken in moderation a man may take opium all his life and receive no harm, and I am not prepared to say that is not true; but I believe that in a multitude of cases, Mr. Chairman, those who commence the use of opium very soon abuse it to excess; and when opium is taken in excess, as far as I know and believe after a considerable and intimate acquaintance with the Chinese, it results in the total wreck of the man, physically, mentally, and morally. There does not seem to be anything left for a foundation to build upon. The man or woman becomes sterile and barren, Mr. Chairman; they are weakened in body and unable to do any labour; and they are weak morally. I understand that the respectable Chinese will not employ opium smokers in their houses if they can

help it, because they are so weak morally as well as mentally. Ladies who go into the Chinese town, in their visits not unusually find, as the result of opium smoking, a wife working hard at 50 cash a day to support herself and her two or three children and her opium-smoking husband as well; and happy is the Chinese woman who can get 50 cash a day steadily. Now it has been said that the Municipal Council have not the ability to deal with this question. For a series of years the ratepayers have instructed the Municipal Council to license opium-shops; and the right to license implies the right to terminate it. The Shanghai community has the reputation of being one of the most generous and sympathetic communities in the world, and I believe the community deserves the name well for long years of noble deeds and generosity; and I do not believe there is one here who wishes to take advantage of this weakness in human nature by continuing to receive this smallittance which we raise for licences; and therefore I move you, Mr. Chairman, in favour of this 14th resolution.

Rev. H. C. HODGES—In seconding this resolution I do it, not so much with the hope that it will be passed, as desiring to enter an earnest protest against a practice which is increasing the immorality of this place. There is a difference between this question and the one which has just been discussed; one which, of course, if this meeting were to pass it, would I admit give great difficulty to the Council in carrying it out; and that difference is a question of revenue. I see that during the past year the amount of Tls. 31,000 has been paid into the revenue by licence-holders of opium shops. If that were to be swept away altogether, considering there is a balance to the good of Tls. 26,000 we should not be much the poorer for it, and I would beseech the Council to consider very earnestly whether we are justified—as persons who profess to be moral, if not Christian, and more especially those who profess to belong to Christian nations—in receiving this money from the use of what is a moral blot on this place, and which causes us to be held up as a reproach by the Chinese. We are accustomed to speak of the "heathen Chinese" who in this respect shows himself more moral than ourselves and points to us in reproach. I earnestly plead with the Council to devise if possible some means of diminishing the increase of these opium dens, if not of closing them altogether.

Mr. MACGREGOR—On this resolution I shall adopt very much the course I adopted on the previous one. It must have been known, in fact it is admitted by the seconder of the resolution, that it was an impossible one, and I should have thought that, at this time of day and living in the midst of the facts, which must be obvious and known to every person here, to charge this community in any way with promoting and encouraging the use of opium is behind the age. I only say I hope the motion will be put at once and that it will be negatived. (Applause.)

On a show of hands being taken, the Chairman declared the resolution lost.

Mr. FARNHAM—I demand a poll.

The CHAIRMAN—Is that necessary?

Mr. FARNHAM—Sorry to detain you, but it is necessary.

The CHAIRMAN—I do not see the necessity at this late hour. It is merely inflicting needless torture upon the community. We will have a poll if you insist upon it.

Mr. FARNHAM—I am exceedingly sorry to detain you, but it has to be done, I understand. I demand a poll.

On a poll being taken, the figures were: For the resolution, 10; against, 133. The resolution was therefore lost.

Mr. WAINWRIGHT—I do not propose to try the patience of the audience any longer than I can help. The resolution I have to propose is

Resolution XV.—That the Municipal Council be, and they are hereby authorised to make a grant of One Thousand Taels to the Council of the Shanghai Public School in aid of the expenses of the school for the current year.

The circumstances under which the Public School trustees come before the ratepayers are briefly these: The School was founded in 1886, and the present management, that is Mr. Lanning, now the head master, took over charge on January 1st, 1889. The school then contained between 40 and 50 scholars. There are now 94, and there are applications from various other parents of children, who want their children admitted. The principle on which the School is worked is that no respectable child is refused admission, and that the school fees are not exacted where the management are satisfied that the parents, from one cause or another, are unable to pay the fees. The consequence is that while the usefulness of the School has increased, its income has not kept pace with the increase in the number of pupils, and the expenses now practically swallow up the whole of the income. On the other hand there is a pressing need for more assistance in the teaching department. It is exceedingly dangerous, in the interest of the education of the young people who are at the School, that practically it all depends on the health and strength of one single man. Mr. Lanning has two lady assistants, but there is nobody to take charge of the school if his health broke down or if he were disabled; and it is highly desirable that the staff should be increased. Under these circumstances the trustees of the School think the ratepayers will recognise the value of the institution, and that they may fairly come and ask them to help them over what is really a tight place. They do not ask the ratepayers to help them for more than the current year; they only ask for a sum of money which will enable them to bring out a school teacher from England and put the School on a safer basis. Those people who are interested and might be called upon to help in this matter by voluntary contributions have been, I understand, rather heavily taxed in the last two months, and I do not see any other course open except to appeal to the community. The amount is not large, and I trust that the ratepayers, having saved Tls. 25,500, will feel rich enough to let the School have the money asked for. It is obvious that the School is of the greatest value and importance to the child population of this settlement. (Applause.)

Mr. R. W. LITTLE—The applause that followed the full explanation my friend Mr. Wainwright has given of the resolution seems to show that the meeting is inclined, as I hope, to pass it, and therefore I will only say this: It may possibly be urged that this is or was a Masonic School, and that therefore the funds of the whole community should not be given to it; but as a matter of fact it is a public school open to all Shanghai. The School is now practically short of Tls. 1,000, and I am sure the facts Mr. Wainwright has laid before you will be sufficient to allow you to pass this without further discussion.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, you will find on your seats lists of ratepayers willing to serve on the Board of Governors of the Shanghai General Hospital; and I shall be glad if you will fill them up by striking out one name of the five and leave them on the table.

Mr. MACGREGOR—Gentlemen, I ask you to join me in according a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Hughes for his admirable conduct in the chair to-day. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated, at half past four. The result of the election of Governors was subsequently stated to be that out of the five candidates (Messrs. F. H. Bell,

E. Henderson, M.D., A. McLeod, R. E. Wainwright, and W. H. Talbot) the first four named were elected.

CHINA BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY.

A meeting of this Society was summoned for Friday evening last, to hear a paper by Dr. J. Edkins on "Chinese Architecture," and, in spite of the inclemency of the weather, about 30 persons, including several ladies, attended. The Society's Library, in which the meeting was held, was adorned with several rubbings from sculptures illustrative of the lecturer's subject. Mr. P. J. Hughes (the President of the Society) occupied the chair.

The HON. SECRETARY (Mr. W. Bright), in opening the proceedings, said that as the business of the last meeting of the Society, held on the 20th December, had been fully reported in the daily newspapers, he thought that, with the permission of those present, the minutes might be taken as read. At the last meeting the President had mentioned that the abstract of the replies to the Weights, Measures, and Currency circular was in course of preparation by Mr. Morse. It was now his duty to report to the meeting that the abstract had been received, and would form a valuable addition to the current fascicule of the Society's "Journal," which was shortly to be published. The thanks of the Society were due to their correspondents for their replies, and especially to Mr. Morse for the great pains he had bestowed on the preparation of the summary. The Circular for 1890 on "Inland Communications" had just been issued, and would, he hoped, elicit even more numerous and exhaustive replies than resulted from the issue of the last Circular. The information sought on the present occasion to be obtained from all parts of China and Corea had reference to the main roads, the condition of the ancient and modern roads, particulars of noteworthy bridges, viaducts and tunnels, of modes of conveyance, rate and cost of travelling, cost of carriage of goods, and accommodation for travellers. He might add, in conclusion, that, owing to the difficulty experienced in some cases of obtaining subscriptions from members, the Council had decided to remove from the list the names of those who had failed to pay their subscriptions for the past three years, and to print in the next fascicule of the *Journal* a notice to the effect that members whose subscriptions were a year in arrear would receive no further publications of the Society.

The PRESIDENT said that he had much pleasure in announcing the election, since the last meeting of the Society, of the following gentlemen:—Messrs. Max Goebel (Consul-General for Belgium), F. M. Gratton, and Ferd. Rinkel. In the name of the Society, he desired to thank M. Janet for his kindness in arranging and classifying the specimens of butterflies in the Museum. He had been requested to intimate to members that they would greatly assist their indefatigable Hon. Librarian (Dr. Faber), in his arduous labour of re-arranging the books in the Library, if they would kindly return without delay any works which might happen to be in their possession. There were at present some forty books missing; the absence of such was, to say the least, exceedingly inconvenient. The lecture on "Chinese Architecture" which they were to have the pleasure of hearing from Dr. Edkins that evening would, he was informed, treat the subject from the historical point of view. The well-known learning and ability of the lecturer entitled them to expect a lecture of more than ordinary interest, and he was glad to see many present, though doubtless there would have been a much larger audience had not the weather been so severe. Among those present he noticed some who had travelled extensively in the interior,

and who had doubtless come across remains of ancient edifices and seen the cave and rock dwellings described by Dr. Williamson in his interesting work, *Journeys in North China*. There were other gentlemen—and perhaps ladies, too—who, although they had not gone so far afield, had closely observed the facts within their reach, and who might possibly favour the meeting with the results of their observations. Last, and perhaps not least, there were present professional gentlemen able, as he hoped they would be willing, to tell them something about Chinese architecture regarded from the standpoint of Western science. He had no doubt that thus many novel and interesting facts would be elicited, and a flood of light thrown upon a subject which, as far as he knew, had not hitherto been discussed at a meeting of the Society. He would now call upon Dr. Edkins to proceed with his lecture. (Applause.)

Dr. EDKINS commenced his lecture by premising that to understand the architecture of a country it was necessary to have some knowledge of antiquity, for all architecture rested upon the past and embodied the ideas of the men of earlier generations. If, for example, they approached a Gothic cathedral they might observe on the outside rows of statues sculptured on the front, representing the prophets and apostles of Scripture. These statues were intended to show that the Christian religion, for the conduct of the worship of which this splendid church was built, was founded on the teaching of the men whose statues they saw. If they were in rows, as in Wells Cathedral, it was an idea borrowed from Greek art, which loved to represent in that way battles, religious processions, gymnastic contests, feasts, marriages, and court pageants. Entering, they passed the font, which reminded them that baptism admitted a man to the Christian assembly. The thought then occurred that the door of the building was the gate of admission to the congregation, and that the whole building, in fact, was symbolical in all its principal features. The whole had an adaptation to impress both the cultivated and the ignorant. Architecture in such a case had an effect of the most striking kind on minds endowed with genius. This was especially so with Milton, whose familiar words descriptive of the effect of church architecture and music the lecturer quoted. He then proceeded to remark that in regard to classical Chinese architecture, there was no distinction of an essential kind between sacred and secular buildings. The farther they went back the clearer it appeared that the palace was the temple, and the temple the palace. That same circumstance in the architecture of the Assyrians struck Layard and other students of Assyrian antiquities. The same fact appeared in the old Chinese records. In one of the first chapters of Mencius they were told that Chi Suen Wang, king of the Chi country, asked whether he should order the destruction of the Ming-t'ang, as he had been advised to do. Mencius replied, "No. It is the hall for the emperor to announce correct principles of government in the assemblies of the barons. If you wish to act as a king ought and practise the duties of a wise ruler, do not destroy it." There the emperors, when they visited the T'ai Mountain, held a great feudal assembly, sacrificed to ancestors, and personally resided. In the Ming-t'ang, worship was offered to the sun and moon also, and there was an altar for burnt sacrifice, in which case the victim was laid on wood and burnt. When the covenant was made between sovereign and feudal barons the emperor sat cross-legged on a throne—a *daï*—which varied in height from nine feet in the Chow dynasty to three feet in the Shang, and one foot in the Hsia. When the covenant was determined, the fact was announced to the bright spirits, and hence the name Ming-t'ang. There never was in

China any notion of local sanctity in buildings, and all the reverence attached to a palace was on account of the emperor, the brother of the sun and moon, and his ancestors. The arrangement of buildings in the capital at the present time was the same in principle as the old classical arrangement, which combined the three ideas of temple, hall of audience, and private residence. In the building of the Imperial capital all favourable circumstances must be combined. In ancient time there was no *féu-shui*, but it was necessary to have lucky portents and to begin laying out a city upon a lucky day. Chên Kung the sage, measured north and south with the gnomon's shadow. The gnomon was eight feet long. The time was noon on the day of the commencement of spring B.C. 1109. He used plummet-line and mason's rule, and the latitude was that of Honan Fu, or 34° 43' 15". The mats he used to lay out the palace were six feet long, and he measuring-rod four feet and two thirds long, the old Chinese foot being taken at eight inches. The principal roof of the Ming-t'ang was circular. The building beneath was square at the base. The idea was to imitate the form of heaven and earth. It had nine rooms and eight windows. There were two other buildings, called Pi-yung and Ling-tai. The Pi-yung was on the east, as it is now in Peking. It contains at present the stone classics cut by order of the emperor Kien-lung, and the Imperial act performed there is the exposition of the classics before the assembled court. The old Pi-yung was devoted to music, archery, and the like functions. The Ling-tai was employed as a cluster of offices for those officers engaged in preparing the calendar, and calculating eclipses. In the plan of a house the ancients were influenced by filial piety, which caused them to begin with the ancestral hall in the south-east of the plot of land set apart for the building of the palace. Such, according to the *Chow Li*, was the idea of the architecture of B.C. 2200. Religion, too, as then understood, was a powerful sentiment in their minds. The double roof has always been a favourite ornament of the Chinese. It is noticed particularly in gate towers, pagodas, and towers at the corners of walls. The ancient Chinese built of brick with a wooden framework. The provinces which the nation then occupied were chiefly plains and broad valleys. The chief constituent of the soil was the loess, which was partly a subaerial deposit and partly had become diluvial and alluvial by the action of rivers overflowing every summer. There was also a good deal of yellow clay. The bricks were easily made out of these constituents. The early architecture of the Chinese was essentially plain, geometrical, and practically useful. The love of fantastic curves in the lower part of roofs came into vogue later, and must be sought rather in Buddhism.

The art of house building was spread among the Tartar tribes by the Chow family when they took refuge from the tyranny of the Shang dynasty in the Pin country, fifty miles north-west of Sianfu, and near the boundary of Shensi. There the aboriginal tribes lived in loess caves. Their new friends from civilised China taught them how to make double chambers and upper rooms, and instructed them in the art of making bricks in kilns—at least, that was the interpretation given by the lecturer to the passage in the classics, though commentators differed on the point, and Legge explains that the houses were shaped like kilns. The lecturer then discoursed at length on the architecture of the post-Confucian age, famous for its paintings and sculptures, explaining at the same time the meaning of the groups illustrated on the pictures hung round the room. Afterwards he described the leading features of Buddhist architecture, which were mainly derived from Hindoo sources, and he concluded with a brief reference to the architecture

of the modern period. In this period bridges had been greatly improved by adopting the arch. Such bridges, however, though strongly built and pleasing to the eye, were often inconveniently steep. The custom in China is for the rich to erect bridges and dams from charitable motives, and in order to obtain benefits in return from the unseen powers. But rich Chinese would not at present give so much to advance the cause of railway construction as they would to erect a costly bridge. In the former case they would receive no praise from their friends. They do not think that the unseen powers that make men rich and give them children and grandchildren will favour the opening of railways so much as the construction in convenient spots of bridges and embankments. When, concluded the lecturer, the wealthy become convinced that the Buddhist doctrine of moral fate which influences their actions approves of railways, the money will come, and come in abundance. (Applause.)

General MESNY thought that the different interpretations of scholars in regard to the caves and kilns arose from the use of the same character to express both, as was the case in Shansi and Kansu, though in Szechuan the caves were known by a distinct name. The loess referred to by the lecturer resembled chalk, was easily worked, and was used for making cabins, beds, stores, &c. The ornaments which he had noticed round the graves of Emperors were usually in pairs; there were two torches, two goats, two horses, two men, and so on. The graves had large tablets, with inscriptions similar to those on tombstones in western countries. The cap (or *mao-tse*) at the top of the tablets had designs of dragons holding balls—presumably of fire. There were caves of the Tang dynasty ten or so miles west of Honanfu executed out of solid rock, and many of them very large. Excepting the porcelain pagoda at Nanking, the pagodas he had seen were mostly of brick.

Dr. FABER said that he had followed with much interest the valuable paper of Dr. Edkins, and only regretted that he found it impossible to remember the great number of minor details. He wished to ask the lecturer a question, namely, "What was the characteristic feature of Chinese architecture?"—in the sense that we speak of parallel lines forming the characteristic of Greek architecture, of the vertical line with pointed arch of Gothic, and of the round arch of the Roman style.

Dr. EDKINS replied that he considered the roof the characteristic feature of Chinese architecture.

Dr. FABER, continuing, said that the roof was certainly very characteristic of Chinese architecture. Architecture, however, was not merely workmanship, but a science and an art. The roof could not be considered as an object in itself, but only in connection with the building to which it belonged, and of which it must be part of an organic whole. Herein Chinese architecture was deficient. The ground plan was sometimes well proportioned, but the leading from it to the superficial roof was seldom perfect, except, perhaps, in small open garden-houses, in which the Chinese excel. Though the roof was not exclusively supported by walls, but by pillars also, the pillars in themselves showed no artistic perfection. They had commonly a pedestal, of which there were various forms in China, but no capital. Only very rarely was a rough beginning of such to be seen in China. The upper portion of the pillar was pierced by cross-pieces, commonly of wood. This piercing pointed to wood-construction as another feature of Chinese architecture. For this reason no vaults were to be met with, the very few exceptions, on the Omei Mountain and in graves, pointing to foreign workmanship. Dr. Edkins had mentioned a building entirely of stone; it would be interesting to get

more particulars about such. Then with regard to the Ming-t'ang they had been told that it was a square building with a round roof. To accomplish that in an artistic way, to the satisfaction of cultivated, æsthetic ideas, meant the highest perfection in architecture. It would mean an anticipation of Michael Angelo and Wren, 3,000 years ago. But we might as well believe in the squaring of the circle by the Chinese. (Laughter.) Probably a round roof was simply put on a square one. That the Ming-t'ang, at the T'ai Mountain, was more magnificent than other buildings of the kind was due to the near relationship of the Duke of Lu, commonly called Chow Kung, to the Imperial house of the Chow, and to his great merits in establishing that dynasty in China. He was invested with the feudal State of Lu, and special privileges were granted to him. Some of these referred to the Ming-t'ang. This was a large building for ancestral worship, for audiences, and for the reception of the Emperor on his tours of inspection. There were four other buildings of the kind in China at the time, the principal one being at the Imperial residence. In the Li-ki they were told that the Emperors of the Shang and Hsia dynasties had similar buildings under other names. Though that kind of building served for religious as well as for political purposes, it did not follow that all ancient Chinese buildings were devoted to religious observances. There were very early notices in Chinese literature of markets, of walled cities, of granaries and other store-houses, of stables, towers, &c. All such buildings were doubtless very prosaic in outline, only serving for the immediate necessities of life. The designs of all larger buildings in China exhibit an immense waste of space; the principal impression was received from the vast dimensions, which, according to Burke, is always the sign of a common and low imagination. Of more or less beauty, however, were the gates and gateways, and, as a branch of them, the memorial arches. Their ornamentation was often beautiful. But even in their ornamentation the Chinese rarely, if ever, exhibit congruity of detail. The details were often perfect, but they were seldom in such full harmony with other details as to present to the spectator the pleasing aspect of a harmonious work of art. The distinction of a classical and post-classical period in Chinese architecture was scarcely tenable, and certainly of but little importance. Very marked, however, was the Buddhistic period. No mention had been made of the influence of Mohammedan architecture in China. There was undoubtedly such from Arabia (for example, in Canton), from Persia, and from Turkestan. It was possible that the superiority of the architecture of the Ming dynasty could be traced to that source. (Applause.)

Dr. WILLIAMSON said there were comparatively few allusions to their buildings in ancient Chinese books, and it would be easier to describe their dresses than their dwellings. The few which existed had been utilised by Dr. Edkins. There was no doubt that the lecturer was right in saying that the first end was geometrical, and this was also true of contemporaneous architecture. The early Babylonian and Assyrian architecture was emphatically geometrical—usually rectangular—crowned often with a dome or an octagon; so also with the earliest Egyptian. The Great Pyramid was a geometrical problem from base to apex. And in regard to these the lecturer was also right in saying that science preceded superstition. Those two styles of architecture seemed to have had no beginning, but to have sprung up in their richest glory like Minerva full grown and armed from the brain of Jupiter. This was true likewise of the most ancient Egyptian statues, alike as regards size, expression, and finish. In regard to the second stage, the speaker thought it was very likely that Ts'in Shi

Huang had obtained his ideas of parks and gardens and other of his public works from the royal palaces of Babylonia, which appeared so unexpectedly in China, as with the touch of a magician's wand. Ts'in Shi Huang lived in the distant north-west, and there could be no doubt but that there was far more intercourse in those times between Central Asia and Asia Minor than was once supposed.

Mr. HUGHES (the President) suggested that the resemblance between the Chinese house and the Mongol tent might account for the style of Chinese buildings. He had not heard that subject referred to in the course of the discussion and perhaps there were some present who could enlighten them with regard to it.

Dr. EDKINS stated that he knew that that was a favourite theory but he had not much faith in it.

General MESSY having made a brief reference to the resemblance between the portable canopy used at military reviews, to shelter the inspecting officer, and the concave roofs met with in China,

Mr. CARLES said that he was rather surprised to hear the learned lecturer call in question the origin of Chinese architecture. It was not only the outer slope of the roof in a Chinese house which bore a resemblance to a tent; there were many other features in common. In building it, the wooden framework was first placed in position, after which the brickwork was filled in, the sequence of work being the same as that with a tent's pole and its covering. Further, the rafters overlapped the pillars to a degree which, though natural in a tent, was certainly not necessary in a more stable structure. There was also a complete absence of any arch; but perhaps the most striking resemblance between a Chinese house and a tent lay in the divisions corresponding to the spaces between the poles or pillars, which necessarily, with the exception of the central space, were equidistant from each other. Nor, again, was it only in the interior of the house that the resemblance existed. The main building was slightly raised above the others, and was approached by a pathway flanked by the buildings of secondary importance. The women's quarters were at the back of the main building and thus screened from sight. No communication existed between the different buildings, and if it was desired to pass from one courtyard to another, the passage lay outside the intervening buildings, and not through them. All these conditions were such as would exist in a camp, the chief's tent being on a slightly higher ground than the rest, the approach to it being guarded by his officers' tents, and the communications from one to another being not under cover, but in the open air. There was another curious feature to which it was perhaps worth while to call attention in passing. The stone socket (*sang-tun*) in which the main pillars stand, is cut away on its lower side to such an extent that only a comparatively small portion of it rests on the stone slab beneath it. This, of course, is a weak point in the structure, but may be due to the fact that formerly the socket rested in the earth and not on a stone slab, when, of course, it would be advisable to reduce the size of the lower portion in order to admit of its easier reception into the earth. This, too, might point to the time when a substitute was sought for tent-pegs in the erection of solid buildings. Mr. Carles regretted that lack of time had prevented Dr. Edkins from reading the whole of his paper to the meeting. There were, he said, other buildings than those of the type which had been referred to. For instance at Sochow the Wu-liang Tien or Beamless Hall, and at Peking the Drum Tower, were specimens of structures in brick and stone, the like of which were found on a smaller scale at the cemeteries of persons connected with the Imperial family. In view, however, of the

resemblances which existed, in appearance, interior arrangements, and general plan, he held that the original idea of a Chinese house was drawn from tents and tent life.

Dr. FABER said that in regard to the design of Chinese Yamens and similar buildings, he thought that Mr. Carles' arguments were quite conclusive. He also agreed with General Messy that the concave roof was an imitation of the lines of a tent or portable pavilion. Curved roofs were, according to all Chinese authorities, as ancient as Chinese architecture. They might believe that, as it marked a peculiarity of Chinese artistic feeling, which showed unmistakably a horror of straight lines, especially horizontal ones. The forms on the wall-pictures exhibited before them that evening were no valid argument against it, for they knew that Ts'in Shi Huang showed a great interest in going against every custom prevailing during the Chow dynasty, which was then crushed, and a new era in social and political life, not merely a new dynasty, was inaugurated with irresistible power and relentless cruelty. A few ancient relics at one place in China could never be conclusive in regard to the state of things at other places, and, still less, at other periods.

Mr. G. J. MORRISON stated the usual points in architecture were construction, outline, and ornamentation, and as regards construction in Chinese buildings his experience led him to the conclusion that its principal feature was its utter badness. There was hardly a building erected so as to last. In pagodas bricks were used, and such structures lasted longer than most others. Wood formed the chief part of the majority of the buildings. The outline was the point to which Western architects liked to pay most attention. In Chinese buildings, except perhaps as regards the roof, and except in the case of pagodas, there was very little outline. The outline of the semi-circular bridges was pleasing to the eye, and had greater attention been paid to the foundations, they would probably have remained to the present day. The pleasantest feature of most Chinese buildings, and on which the greatest care was evidently bestowed, was the ornamentation. In this real merit could be discerned, and the work was well worthy of the study of those interested in such subjects. (Applause.)

Dr. FABER proposed a vote of thanks to the lecturer for his very interesting lecture, and a similar compliment having been paid to the Chairman, the meeting adjourned.

THE SHANGHAI RACE CLUB.

On Thursday evening (20th) the annual meeting of members of the Shanghai Race Club took place in the Shanghai Club, Mr. Alex. McLeod presiding.

The notice convening the meeting having been read by the Secretary, Mr. Barnes Dallas,

The CHAIRMAN said—I regret exceedingly to have to inform you that owing to indisposition our chairman, Mr. Ringer, is prevented from attending this evening and in the usual course taking the chair. At his request I have promised to do my best to fill his place, but as I have only received very short notice of Mr. Ringer's inability to preside, I trust that you will extend to me your indulgence for any short-comings on my part in proposing the adoption of the accounts for the year and giving such explanations as may be necessary. Fortunately the accounts which have been in your hands for some days past, are exceedingly satisfactory, and I trust that you will consider them so. Looking first of all at the expenditure side of the accounts I find that the expenditure, as compared with that of last year, is some Tls. 1,500 less. The differences which led to this result are first of all a sum of 300 and odd taels spent on the usual repairs to the property of the club, a saving of something like a hundred and eighty taels less

in the money spent by the Club in prize. We received so many presentation prizes that consequently we have had to spend upon prizes a less sum than usual. If we turn to the other side we find that the receipts are increased by an almost similar amount, fifteen hundred and odd taels, and although the entrance fees as compared with 1888, are some Tls. 600 less, the sale of tickets, subscriptions and rent of stables are some Tls. 300 more than last year. But the largest increase in our receipts has been from the *Pari Mutuel*, and this shows an increase from that source over the previous year of something like Tls. 1,100. You will see that there is a balance in hand of Tls. 5,332 as against Tls. 2,945 the previous year, and I think, considering we have had two very good meetings, and that the hospitality of the Club has been in no way curtailed, that you will agree with me that it is a very satisfactory result we have put before you (Hear, hear). Now as to the balance in hand—I think it is desirable that you should know how we propose to deal with it. It has been found absolutely necessary to make considerable repairs to the stables. The woodwork, windows, and floors of the stables, and the roofs which have stood through a number of years have fallen into disrepair, and we have had estimates prepared, as to the cost of the work, by a competent architect. The stewards, with your approval, have decided to put the stables into a thorough state of repair, and this will take some twelve or thirteen hundred taels. In addition to that, there is a sum of about Tls. 200 to be expended on the Grand Stand, and half the expense of putting up a new fence between the Loong-fei property and the Race Course, as the present fence has got into a very bad state of repair. It has been in existence a great many years and the owners of Loong-fei have consulted with us and we decided to pay half the cost of the new rails, they paying the other half. This work which is very badly needed will be commenced at once. That will dispose of something like Tls. 1,500 of the amount standing to our credit now. The Stewards then propose to devote a sum of Tls. 2,000 towards paying off a portion of the mortgage on the Bellevue property. We have on it at present a mortgage of about Tls. 7,000, and we think it very desirable to reduce that amount. We have liberty to pay it off in sums of not under Tls. 1,000 at a time and we now propose to reduce this by Tls. 2,000 which will leave us a balance in hand of something like Tls. 1,500 to carry forward to this year's working account.—The Chairman, expressing his willingness to answer any questions, concluded by moving the adoption of the accounts as printed.

Mr. SUIDTER seconded the motion, and it was carried *nem. con.*

The CHAIRMAN in introducing the next business, the election of Stewards for the current year, said that the usual course of advertising in the papers requesting any members of the club willing to serve to send in their names had been followed, but only one name, that of Mr. Probst, had been sent in. He might mention that it was necessary to add one name to the list as his colleague, Mr. Suidter, was unable to serve again this year, which they were all very much regretted, as Mr. Suidter had been most watchful of their interests, and had taken the greatest interest and trouble in the affairs of the Club. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. C. A. L. DUNN proposed that the gentlemen whose names were on the printed list be elected.

Mr. C. J. ASHLEY seconded.

Mr. BRODIE CLARKE said he thought it would be better if they did not put the advertisement in the papers, because a great many members did not like to send in their names in response to the advertisement, as they thought it would look a little officious. He proposed that Mr. Tripp, who for a long time had been

connected with racing in the south, be added to the list.

Mr. PROBST said that he would not have made any observation except that from what Mr. Clarke had said it might appear that he had sent in his name in answer to the advertisement. He was asked if he would be willing to serve, and he said "yes," and the next thing was that he found his name had been put on the paper (laughter).

The CHAIRMAN reminded Mr. Clarke that it had been decided some years ago to insert this advertisement, as it saved time, and new men were frequently elected and then it was found they were unwilling to serve, as was the case some time ago when Mr. Bishop was elected and they had the greatest difficulty afterwards in persuading him to serve.

Mr. CLARKE said that he was only expressing the views of members whom he heard speaking of the matter at the Race Course.

The CHAIRMAN said it did not require the gentleman himself to send in his name, but if he was willing to serve, his name could be sent in by somebody else.

Mr. DUNN asked that his resolution should be put to the vote.

The amendment was put and lost by a large majority.

Mr. CLARKE proposed that a ballot be taken for the election of stewards and that Mr. Tripp's name be added to the list of those willing to serve.

While it was in progress, Mr. Dunn made some observations in reference to the disclosures as to the ownership of ponies and "roping" made in the case of Brandt v. Fraser-Smith in Hongkong and created much amusement by saying that he had been guilty of "roping" himself though on the whole he tried to be "fairly square," and he asked that the rule as to the ownership of ponies be more rigidly enforced.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Brandt was not a member of the Shanghai Race Club, but he did not know whether to take Mr. Dunn's remarks as serious, for he accused himself of "roping." But he trusted the remarks were only made in a Pickwickian sense. As regards the ownership of ponies; what more could they do than get the man entering a pony to sign a declaration that it was his *bona fide* property? It was not in their province to prove by legal proceedings that the statement was true or not and he thought they never could get stewards to undertake any such duty.

Mr. DUNN said he wanted to be put on record his appeal to the stewards in the matter which was one that should carry great weight.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure the stewards gave every attention to the matter.

The result of the election for stewards was then declared as follows:—Messrs. J. M. Ringer, A. McLeod, W. Howie, Jno. Macgregor, O. Schuffenhauer, Robert Mackenzie and H. J. H. Tripp.

The election of the Ballotting Committee was next proceeded with.

Mr. RUFF asked if nothing could be done to improve the state of the inner course so that it could be used in all weathers. Last autumn it was utterly impossible to use it for several weeks. He thought it could be improved by putting sand, and granite chips.

The CHAIRMAN said he was sure that nothing would give the stewards greater pleasure than to make the inner track a perfect course. The speaker had referred to the unsatisfactory state of the course last autumn but he should remember that they had 56 days of continuous rain, with only brief intervals, and he would like to know if any place in Shanghai was in a satisfactory condition last autumn. It had been the constant desire of the Stewards aided by able clerks of the course to improve the inner track, but he was afraid it would never be a perfect course in all weathers. It had been more than

once dug up, and he thought during the several years that Mr. Gore-Booth had been in charge of the course, it was in very good condition. He did not think they should take last autumn as a criterion, and he had no doubt that Mr. Hough would do all he could to improve it. They had estimates of what it would take to put the course in anything like the order of Sicawei road, for instance, but it would cost something between ten and twenty thousand taels, an enormous expenditure which he was sure the members would never sanction, and he would be very glad indeed if Mr. Ruff would show them how it could be improved (Laughter).

Mr. HENRY SYLVA complained of members driving on the course in the morning in carriages which frightened the ponies, and suggested that a notice should be put up prohibiting this.

The CHAIRMAN said it was an understood rule that members should not drive on the course and the notice would be put up as suggested.

Mr. CLARKE complained about the system prevailing at the Grand Stand during the training season by which approved visitors had to ask or wait for a member to take them into the coffee-room and sign a chit for 25 cents before they could get a cup of coffee. He did not think it was hospitable and he had never seen it on any other course in China.

The CHAIRMAN said that if any number of visitors were allowed to go into the coffee room without any such restriction, it might become a little expensive.

Mr. CLARKE said that the rule did not exist years ago, and if a visitor was proposed and seconded he had the right to go into the coffee room by himself. It would not make a difference of more than ten or twelve dollars a year, and he thought the \$5 subscription to the coffee room from members would cover the cost. He had himself seen the Clerk of the Hankow Course recently unable to go into the coffee room without someone signing a chit for him, and a man did not like that.

Mr. SUDTER said the matter had nothing to do with the Club whatever, but was entirely in the hands of the subscribers to the coffee room. Besides it was done on every other course.

Mr. CLARKE said he had never seen it before in China and he had been at almost every course. It was very unpleasant for a man that he could not go into the coffee room without getting someone to sign a chit for him. The matter then dropped, and the result of the election for the Ballotting Committee was declared as follows:—Messrs. J. M. Ringer, A. McLeod, W. Howie, Jno. Macgregor, O. Schuffenhauer, Robert Mackenzie, E. A. Probst, Hart Buck, G. W. Coutts, C. A. L. Dunn, A. Ehlers, E. G. Low, R. de Malherbe, W. Meyerink, R. W. Mustard G. W. Noel, W. H. Short, Henry Sylva, H. J. H. Tripp and Brodie Clarke.

There being no other business, the meeting terminated with the usual compliment to the Chairman.

CO-OPERATIVE CARGO BOAT CO. OF SHANGHAI.

The annual general meeting of shareholders in the Co-operative Cargo Boat Company of Shanghai was held on Wednesday at the offices of the agents, Messrs. Wheelock and Co. There were present Messrs. J. M. Ringer (in the chair), Tong Mow Chee and J. F. Seaman, Directors; C. A. L. Dunn, W. Buchanan, J. M. Young, F. B. Aubert, P. A. W. Ottomeier, J. Welch, J. A. Sullivan, E. Halton and Wong Sha-hee, representing in all 202 shares. Mr. F. Gove having been appointed secretary of the meeting and having read the notice convening it,

The CHAIRMAN said—the first business of the meeting is to put before you the accounts and to ask you to pass them,

and before I put that to the meeting in the form of a resolution, perhaps it will be well for me to say a word or two about the report. In the report we say a comparison of the working for the year with that of the previous year shows that we are better off by Tls. 1,200 this year than last, but that does not show exactly what was done. Last year we brought forward from the working account and transferred to the profit and loss account Tls. 5,442. We have now transferred to the profit and loss account from our working account Tls. 5,174, which is somewhat less than last year, but when we transferred that Tls. 5,442 from our working account it was not all available as profit, for Tls. 1,493 had to come off on account of the bonus to contributors of business, and that only left at our disposal Tls. 3,949. Now we have Tls. 5,174 as against Tls. 3,949 last year. You will see in the accounts that last year we asked you to allow us to set aside Tls. 1,000 as the amount then due to contributors of business, but this year it has all been paid into the pool account before division, and we think we are justified in saying that some further increase may be anticipated from the working of the present year, as the boats will cost less for maintenance than last year. We asked you then to allow us to carry forward Tls. 1,800 for the purpose of repairs; now we have a very good report from the surveyors, both as to the launches and the boats, which shows that they are in a very much better condition than they were then. Whilst on this subject you will see in the report we say that when we were considering repairs we found that six of the boats were in such a bad condition that it would be very much better to rebuild them altogether than to spend the amount of money necessary to make them passable or in an efficient state for working. But as we found that the agents of the company thought these boats were quite unnecessary for the present business of the company, we arranged with the Shanghai Cargo Boat Company that they should be withdrawn from the fleet, and a sum for replacing them has been placed on deposit in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank bearing interest; so that when these boats are rebuilt we shall have new ones instead of boats partially worn and patched up. We have in this way saved wages to caretakers for six months. I may say with regard to this matter that the Shanghai Cargo Boat Company have done the same with three of their boats, and have treated them in the same way. We propose now to carry forward Tls. 1,000; last year we brought forward Tls. 1,800, or altogether Tls. 3,000, for this purpose, which merely means the money necessary for replacing the boats we have withdrawn. I think therefore that we are quite justified in saying that the cost of maintenance of our fleet will be less than last year, and if you look at the working account you will see that Tls. 2,294 was charged to repairs account, which leaves us Tls. 5,174 as net profits for the year which, added to Tls. 1,828, the amount carried forward from 1888, makes a total of Tls. 7,000 to the credit of our profit and loss account. We propose to deal with this Tls. 5,174 in this way: that we should declare a dividend of Tls. 4 per share, which will leave us Tls. 3,000 to carry forward. There is one other thing to which I would briefly refer. Your Directors did not fill the vacancy on the board caused by the resignation of Mr. Yeend Duer, which reduces their number to three, which is the smallest number you can work with. But we felt that under the present system of management things go on very well, and that three Directors are quite enough, and it is a saving to the Company. But it rests with you to say whether that number should be increased, which would take a hundred taels more a year. I think that is all that I can say, but if you have any questions before I put

the resolution I shall be very glad to answer them.

There being no questions,
The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. TONG MOW CHEE seconded—

That the accounts of the Company as put before the meeting be accepted and passed.

The resolution was carried unanimously. On the motion of Mr. HALTON, seconded by Mr. WELCH, it was agreed—

That the Directors be authorised to divide the amount standing at the credit of profit and loss account as follows:—A dividend to shareholders of Tls. 4 per share and the balance, Tls. 3,003.31, to be carried forward.

Mr. DUNN proposed, Mr. YOUNG seconded, and it was unanimously agreed—

That Messrs. Tong Mow Chee, J. F. Seaman and J. M. Ringer be re-elected as Directors for the current year.

On the motion of Mr. BUCHANAN, seconded by Mr. SULLIVAN, it was agreed—

That Mr. Wilmer Harris be elected auditor until the next annual general meeting.

The proceedings then terminated in the usual manner.

REPORT.

Directors.—Tong Mow-chee, Esq.; J. F. Seaman, Esq.; J. M. Ringer, Esq., (Chairman).

Capital:—100,000 taels in 1,000 shares of 100 taels each.

Report of the Directors for the year ended 31st December 1889, presented at the Annual General Meeting of Shareholders held at the office of the Agents, Messrs. Wheelock & Co., on Wednesday, 26th February, 1890, at 2.30 p.m.

In submitting to the Shareholders the Accounts of the past year the Directors have the satisfaction of recording an improvement upon the earnings of the Company during 1888.

The amount at Credit of Profit and Loss Account is Tls. 7,003.31, of which Tls. 1,828.35 was brought forward from 1888; Tls. 5,174.96 being the net profits of the working of the Company during the year under review. From this the Directors recommend the payment of a dividend of Tls. 4 per share, which will absorb Tls. 4,000, and that the balance be carried forward.

A comparison of the working of 1889 with that of the previous year shows an increase in the net earnings of about Tls. 1,200, and with equal earnings, some further increase may be anticipated from the working of the present year, the Boats being now in such excellent order that the cost of maintenance should be less than it was during the year just past.

In the report of last year, reference was made to the extensive repairs necessary to put the Launch and Wooden Boats into a state of thorough efficiency. In prosecuting these repairs it was found that it would be better to re-build, than repair, 6 Boats, but as their services are not required by the present business of the Companies, your Directors have arranged with the Directors of the Shanghai Cargo Boat Company that they may be withdrawn from the Fleet, and that the obligation to replace the tonnage, in terms of the Pool Agreement, will not be enforced until they deem it necessary to do so. Tls. 3,600, the estimated cost of replacing the boats, has, as arranged with them, been placed on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, and appears in the balance sheet, under the heading of re-construction account.

Mr. Yeend Duer retired from the Board prior to his departure from Shanghai and the Directors have not deemed it necessary, under the present working of the Company, to fill the vacancy.

The Directors retire as provided by the Deed of Settlement, but being eligible offer themselves for re-election.

CO-OPERATIVE CARGO BOAT CO. AND SHANGHAI CARGO BOAT CO. POOL

ACCOUNT.

Working Account for the year ended 31st December, 1889.

1889.	Dr.	Tls.
To Foreign and native staff.....		5,035.04
Boatmen's wages and coolie hire		15,280.69
Municipal licenses and taxes.....		652.38

Supplies petty and incidentals ..	1,030.37
Wages steam launch crews.....	980.61
Coals for steam launches	1,055.72
Stores for do.	191.85
Rent of offices ..	300.00
Surveyor's fees 18 months	
@ Tls 450 00 per annum	675.00
Agents' Commission:—	
to 30th June on Tls. 27,624.17	
@ 7% per contra	1,933.69
to 31st Dec. on Tls. 40,063.30	
@ 7% per contra	2,804.43
	4,738.12
Bonus to contributors to 30th	
June	2,001.71
Bonus to contributors to 31st	
December	3,118.04
	5,119.75
Balance transferred to re-	
spective Companies in	
terms of agreement, viz:	
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co. ..	25,119.97
Co-operative do. ..	7,759.99
	32,879.96
	67,939.49

1889.	Cr.	Tls.
By lighterage receipts for		
6 months to date.....		27,624.17
Dec. 31. do. do.		40,063.30
		67,687.47
Interest.....		252.02
		67,939.49

E. & O. E.
Audited and found correct,
J. D. THORBURN, }
WILMER HARRIS, } Auditors.

WHELOCK & Co.,
Agents.

Shanghai, 27th January, 1890.
THE CO-OPERATIVE CARGO BOAT CO. OF SHANGHAI.
WORKING ACCOUNT.
For the year ended 31st December, 1889.

Dec. 31st 1889.	Dr.	Tls.
To Directors' fees		325.00
„ Auditor's „		100.00
„ Repairs account:—		
Steam launch	159.38	
Cargo boats	2,134.90	
	2,294.28	
„ Balance carried to profit and		
loss account		5,174.96
		Tls. 7,894.24
Dec. 31st 1889.	Cr.	Tls.
By Proportion of net earnings under		
pool agreement with Shanghai		
Cargo Boat Company		7,759.99
„ Transfer Fees		10.50
„ Interest on Current		
Account	23.75	
„ Interest on Fixed De-		
posit	100.00	
	123.75	
		Tls. 7,894.24

1889.	Dr.	Tls.
Feb. 27. To Dividend to shareholders		
for the year ended 31st Dec. 1888,		
1,000 shares at Tls. 3 per share ..		3,000.00
To Bonus to contributors for 6 months		
ended 31st Dec. 1888		953.44
To Balance carried forward		1,828.35
		5,781.79
Dec. 31. To Balance carried forward ..		7,003.31
		Tls. 7,003.31
1888.	Cr.	Tls.
Dec. 31. By Balance as per last report		5,781.79
1889.		
Feb. 27. By Balance brought forward ..		1,828.35
Dec. 31. By Balance from working		
account for 1889		5,174.96
		Tls. 7,003.31

BALANCE SHEET on 31st December 1889.	Assets.	Tls.
1888 Dec. 31st, Stock account:—		
To Balance this date		
per last account		97,911.52

Less proceeds of old		
boats and material		
sold.....	64.36	
		97,847.16
1889 Dec. 31st:—		
To Outstanding balance		
due on former sale		
of old boats	100.00	
		97,947.16
„ Fixed deposit with Hongkong		
and Shanghai Bank.....	2,000.00	
„ Fixed deposit with Hongkong		
and Shanghai Bank for re-		
building fund	3,600.00	
„ Current account with Hong-		
kong and Shanghai Bank ...	5,685.12	
		Tls. 109,232.28

1889, Dec. 31.	Liabilities.	Tls.
By Capital account.....		100,000.00
„ Reserve fund		2,000.00
„ Outstanding dividends. 12.00		
„ Outstanding bonus to		
contributors	216.97	
		228.97
„ Balance of profit and loss		
account	7,003.31	
		Tls. 109,232.28

E. & O. E.
Shanghai, 8th February, 1889.
J. M. RINGER,
TONG MOW CHEE,
J. F. SEAMAN } Directors.

WHELOCK & Co.,
Agents.
I hereby certify that I have examined the books and vouchers of the Company, and that the foregoing accounts and balance sheet are correct and in accordance therewith.
WILMER HARRIS,
Auditor.

FRENCH GAS COMPANY.
The general meeting of shareholders in the Compagnie du Gaz de la Concession Française de Shanghai was held on Wednesday at the offices of the agents, Messrs. Schönhard & Co. There were present Messrs. R. Francis (Chairman), Douglas Jones, Cooper, and Brunat (Directors), John Walter, Saunders, Voelkel, Davidson, and Fournel, representing 368 votes.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said they ought properly to be conducted in French, but as most of the English shareholders were unacquainted with French and as the French shareholders were conversant with English, it would be more convenient to have the proceedings in that language.

Messrs. Walter & Saunders having been appointed scrutineers, and having certified the list of shareholders present to be correct,

The CHAIRMAN said—The report has been in your hands now for some days, and I presume you will allow it to be taken as read. With one exception, I think you will agree with me that the report is very satisfactory. That exception is the high cost of coal, which has made what would otherwise have been an exceedingly profitable year into a moderately profitable one. It enabled us to declare the usual dividend and to write off from our works Tls. 2,700. We should have liked very much to write off a larger amount, since our works stand at present at the sum of Tls. 43,500, which is more, I am afraid, than they can fairly be considered to be worth. Before proceeding to move the adoption of the report and accounts, I move that M. Fournel act as secretary.

The motion being carried, the Chairman moved—“That the accounts as printed be voted.”

Mr. COOPER seconded the resolution and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN moved—“That the profit be divided according to the report and that the dividend be payable on March 1st.”

Mr. DOUGLAS JONES seconded the motion, and it was carried.

Mr. WALTER moved—"That M. Brunat, whose term of office has expired, be re-elected a Director of the Company."

Mr. VOELKEL seconded the motion, and it was carried.

On the motion of Mr. SAUNDERS, seconded by Mr. DAVIDSON, it was agreed—"That Messrs. H. Vinay and G. Lajeat be re-elected Auditors for the ensuing year."

The CHAIRMAN—Having got through the routine business, I have now some remarks to make on the future of the company. It was formed nearly twenty-five years ago, and it is limited to twenty-five years. It expires with the contract with the Municipality, on 31st March, 1891. It is of course in the capacity of the shareholders, if they so wish it, to prolong the term, and we should have been glad to invite you to pass a resolution to that effect; but I am sorry to say that the result of the tenders made to the Municipality has been that we yesterday received a letter (which I will read) from the French Municipality. (The letter stated that as the tender of the Shanghai Gas Co. would effect a saving to the Municipality of about \$3,000, besides giving better terms to private consumers, the Municipality felt compelled in the ratepayers' interest to accept that tender, though with regret at being unable to renew the engagement with a company which had done so much service.) We tendered to the Municipality at a very great reduction on the rate we are at present receiving. Our present contract is 14 cents a cubic metre to private consumers and 12 cents to the Municipality. We offered to reduce this rate all round to 10 cents. A calculation made by the secretary shows that we should then have for disposal Tls. 2,300 for paying dividend and writing off depreciation, &c. According to this letter, the Shanghai Gas Co.'s offer is better by \$2,000, which is nearly the amount we should have had left to pay dividend, and besides their tender gives better terms to private consumers. It is quite impossible that we could have put in a tender to compete with this. The tender we put in would only have enabled us to pay a very moderate dividend unless the price of coal, which is now very high, was considerably reduced. Fearing that some such result as this might take place, we entered into negotiations with the Shanghai Gas Co., and they agreed to purchase our works, which are put down at Tls. 43,500 under the head of "Usine," for the sum of Tls. 30,000, and they also agreed to take over the "appareils d'éclairage," "matériel," &c., amounting to Tls. 10,200 odd, at a value to be fixed by the engineers of the two companies or by an independent person appointed by both companies to make a fair valuation. This, of course, is subject to the approval of the shareholders of this company. It appears to me that there is very little else to be done. If the arrangement is not carried out, we shall simply have to sell the things to somebody else, and there is no one else here likely to buy them except as old iron; and the cost of removing would be far greater than any difference of price that could be obtained. The loss would be Tls. 13,500 on the present valuation of the works, and whatever we may lose upon the Tls. 10,000 worth of material, which will be perhaps 30 per cent. On the other hand I am happy to tell you that the land under the head of "Compte immeubles," which has some 70 Chinese houses on it, has increased very considerably in value and will probably more than make up for the loss on the works and possible loss on the fittings and other material, and I therefore would ask some shareholder to propose a resolution that the arrangement made by the directors with the Shanghai Gas Co. be confirmed. The speaker concluded by stating that in the event of such resolution being passed it would be necessary to call a meeting to appoint liquidators to sell the property.

Mr. SAUNDERS asked if there was any immediate necessity for replying to the Shanghai Gas Co.'s letter.

The CHAIRMAN replied by reading the French Co.'s letter offering the property for sale, and the reply of the English Co. in the terms mentioned.

Mr. SAUNDERS—I take it the Directors have made the offer and it is accepted, and there is nothing more to be said about it.

The CHAIRMAN—We should like to know that it is approved. If the Shanghai Gas Co. had received the acceptance of their tender by the Municipality earlier, before we had taken these steps, they would give us perhaps a quarter of what we get now.

Mr. WALTER, in proposing—"That the arrangement made by the Directors with the Shanghai Gas Co. be approved, and that this company be dissolved from March 31, 1891," said the shareholders were much indebted to the directors for the foresight they had shown in making arrangements with the other company before its tender was accepted.

Mr. JONES observed that he had been much averse to carrying on the business, as it seemed to be asking the shareholders to go into a speculation in coal. If coal had gone up any further they would have been working at a loss.

Mr. SAUNDERS seconded the motion, and it was carried.

On the motion of Mr. VOELKEL, seconded by Mr. DAVIDSON, it was resolved—"That the Directors call a new general meeting of shareholders to name liquidators to the company." This meeting, the Chairman said, would take place in about a month.

The proceedings then ended in the usual way.

REPORT.

The report and statement of accounts of the Compagnie du Gaz de la Concession Française de Shanghai (the annual general meeting of which took place on the 26th inst.) shows that the consumption of gas during the year had increased from 215,522 cubic metres to 228,356; but the cost of coal rose from Tls. 3.20 per ton to Tls. 4.80. The gross profit realised was Tls. 9,472.19, of which Tls. 2,856.05 was written off for depreciation, leaving a net balance of Tls. 6,616.14. This amount was distributed as follows:—Tls. 827 to reserve fund, Tls. 2,750 dividend of 5½ per cent. already paid, Tls. 3,000 dividend of 6 per cent, and Tls. 39.14 carried forward. The total reserve fund was brought up to Tls. 20,474.18.

Reports.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

REPORT.

For presentation to the shareholders at the twenty-first ordinary meeting to be held at the company's offices at twelve o'clock, noon, on Monday, the 24th February, 1890.

Your Directors have the pleasure to submit the accounts of the company for the year ending 31st December last

1888.—The balance at credit of working account, as per last report, was.....\$ 223,443.29
Deduct dividend of \$3 per share, paid in 1889 .. \$60,000.00
Deduct claims under 1888 policies, paid in 1889 .. 20,637.53
Deduct return premia &c., &c., paid in 1889 2,732.70 83,370.23

Balance of profit ... \$ 140,073.06

This amount the Directors propose to deal with as follows: \$60,000 as a Final Dividend of \$3 per Share, (making \$6 for the year); \$30,073.06 as Bonus on contributions of premia by Shareholders, and the balance, \$50,000, to Reserve Fund, increasing this account to \$700,000, which it is hoped will meet with the approval of the Shareholders.

1889.—The Balance at credit of Working Account at the close of this year is \$244,085.53, which your Directors trust may be considered satisfactory. It is proposed to pay a First Dividend of \$3 per Share out of the anticipated profits, as hitherto.

Directors.—Mr. Siebs resigned his seat at the Board on his departure from the Colony and Mr. H. Hoppius was invited to fill the vacancy. Shareholders will be requested to confirm this appointment. Messrs Michaelson and Layton retire by rotation and offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts now presented have been audited by Messrs. Cox and Lyall, who are eligible for re-election.

P. RYRIE,
Chairman.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1889.

LIABILITIES.	
Capital Account	\$ 400,000.00
Reserve Fund	700,000.00
Accounts payable—	
Final Dividend for 1888	\$60,000.00
Bonus for 1888 and sundries	37,671.36
	97,671.36
Working Account 1889—	
Balance at Credit	244,085.53
	\$1,441,756.89

ASSETS.

Cash at Bankers	\$ 19,647.10
Fixed Deposits at Banks	545,000.00
Invested in Bonds—	
Chinese Imp. Govt. Loans B. C. & E.	212,146.00
Loans on Mortgage—	
On Properties in Hongkong	\$485,775.00
On Properties in Shanghai	128,621.93
	614,396.93
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co.'s Shares	522.00
Furniture Account—	
Office Furniture, &c.	360.00
Accounts Receivable—	
Premia due from Agencies, Interest due on Deposits and Investments, &c.	49,684.80
	\$1,441,756.89

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1st January to 31st December, 1889.

Dr.	
To Charges Account—	
Rent, Salaries, Legal and Surveyors' Fees, Stamps, Stationery, &c., &c.	\$ 18,519.76
Directors' and Auditors' Fees	7,300.00
	\$ 25,819.76
To Fire Engine Working Account—	
Half Cost of Maintaining Steam Fire Engines and Volunteer Brigades	2,388.64
To Commission Account—	
Agents' Commissions	14,113.24
To Losses Account 1889—	
Claims accruing to this year paid..	27,337.71
To Amount Written off—	
Furniture Account	40.00
To Balance	244,085.53
	\$313,784.88
Cr.	
By Premium Account—	
Net amount of Premia collected	\$229,750.85
Less Re-insurances..	4,768.40
	\$224,982.45
By Interest Account—	
Amount at Credit, including Interest due on Deposits and Investments, &c.	85,793.39
By Exchange Account—	
Amount at Credit	1,830.28
Ry Transfer Fee Account—	
Amount at Credit	235.20
By Fire Engine Account—	
Amount at Credit after sale of Steam Fire Engine, &c. at Shanghai	943.56
	\$313,784.88

E. & O. E.
GEO. L. TOMLIN,—Acting Secretary.

We have examined the above Statement with the Books and Securities at the Head Office, and have found the same to be correct.

JAMES H. COX, } Auditors.
R. LYALL, }

Hongkong, 14th February, 1890.

THE HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Company to be presented to the shareholders at the annual meeting to be held at the offices of the Company, Pedder's Street, on 24th February at 3 p.m.:-

The general managers have pleasure in submitting to the shareholders the twenty-first annual report of the company.

1888 Account.—The result of the year's working shows a balance at credit of \$245,628, which sum, with the approval of the consulting committee, it is now proposed to deal with as follows:—

Reserve fund	\$ 24,563.00
Bonus to contributing shareholders	37,065.00
Dividend of \$23 per share	184,000.00
	<u>\$245,628.00</u>

Mortgages.—The general managers and consulting committee are satisfied from careful valuations made by the company's surveyors in Hongkong and Shanghai that the properties held by the company are ample security for the advances made.

Consulting Committee.—Mr. J. F. Holliday having left the colony, the Hon. A. P. McEwen has been nominated to the vacant seat, and his appointment now requires to be confirmed. The present members, the Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. J. S. Moses, S. G. Bird, and T. E. Davies, offer themselves for re-election.

Auditors.—The accounts now presented have been audited by Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and G. S. Coxon and their re-election as auditors of the company is recommended.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers,

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company, Ltd.
Hongkong, 18th February, 1890.

BALANCE SHEET, 31st December, 1889.

Dr.	
To Capital account—	
Paid-up capital on 8,000 shares at \$50 per share	\$ 400,000.00
" Accounts payable—	
Sundry accounts unpaid	46,971.30
" Uncollected dividend account—	
Balance of this account	6,582.14
" Reserve fund—	
Amount reserved from the profits of 1869 to 1887	1,031,486.00
To Working account, 1888—	
Balance from last account	\$326,787.88
Add Sundry premia, &c., since collected	40,180.69
	<u>\$366,968.57</u>
Less Losses and other payments. 116,590.57	
Remuneration to consulting committee and auditors	4,750.00
	<u>\$121,340.57</u>
Net profit for 1888	245,628.00
" Working account, 1889—	
Balance of this account	303,349.20
	<u>\$2,034,016.64</u>

Cr.	
By Bank Accounts, Government Bonds, Mortgages, &c.—	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Current Account	\$ 62,618.63
Ditto Deposit Account	150,000.00
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, Deposit Account	100,000.00

New Oriental Bank Corporation, Limited, Deposit Account	50,000.00
Loans under deed of Mortgage, &c.—	
In Hongkong	760,000.00
In Foochow	59,000.00
In Amoy	20,000.00
In Shanghai,	639,366.52
In Yokohama	9,500.00
Invested in Bonds.—	
Chinese Imperial Government Loan, 1884	46,500.00
Chinese Imperial Government Loan, 1886	35,871.27
Shares in the China Fire Insurance Co., Limited,	157.00
Cash in hands of General Managers,	2,959.27
	<u>\$1,955,972.69</u>

By Accounts Receivable—	
Balance of Premium and Interest to 31st December	71,293.95
By Steam Fire Engine Account—	
Balance of this Account	6,750.00
	<u>\$2,034,016.64</u>

WORKING ACCOUNT, 1889.

Dr.	
To premium account—Balance of this account	\$ 370,080.63
To interest account—Balance of this account	120,793.56
To transfer fees account—Fees collected during the year	160.00
	<u>\$491,034.19</u>

Cr.	
By charges account—	
Salaries of assistants ..	\$ 8,000.00
Salaries of Surveyors in Hongkong & Shanghai ..	2,233.33
Rent of offices	2,800.00
Solicitors' retaining fees ..	283.33
Stationery, printing, advertising, wages of shroffs, &c.	5,735.71
Charges including salaries and rents, &c., appertaining to agencies in Great Britain.	30,422.89
	<u>49,475.26</u>
By re-insurance account—Paid for re-insurance during the year	38,157.23
By exchange account—Balance of this account	833.82
By account of losses—Paid for losses and claims	55,613.46
By fire brigade account—For one-half share of brigade expenses at Hongkong and the branches, viz.: Shanghai and Yokohama	6,147.33
By commission to general managers and agents on premia collected ..	37,457.89
By balance transferred above	303,349.20
	<u>\$491,034.19</u>

E. & O. E.

JARDINE MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers.

Hongkong, 18th February, 1890.
—Daily Press.

SHANGHAI CARGO BOAT COMPANY.

Directors:—F. H. Bell, Esq., (Chairman); C. Vincent Smith, Esq.; Carl Jantzen, Esq.; E. G. Low, Esq.; J. G. Purdon, Esq.; F. Gove, Esq.

Report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the eighth annual general meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5th March, 1890.

The Directors have now the pleasure of submitting to the shareholders the audited accounts for the year ended 31st December 1889. The working of the past year in conjunction with the Co-operative Cargo Boat Company has proved satisfactory and to the advantage of both Companies. The repairs account appears as a very large item compared with former years, but, as anticipated, the whole fleet had to undergo a thorough overhaul. It can now be safely said that,

with the exception of one or two boats, which have still to be repaired, the Company's plant is in good sound working order.

After providing for all repairs, expenses, Directors' and Auditor's fees, Agents' commission and bonus to contributors, the working account shows a balance of Tls. 19,644.82, which together with the sum of Tls. 3,661.74 brought forward from profit and loss account of 1888, makes a total of Tls. 23,306.56, out of which an interim dividend to 30th June of 3% absorbing Tls. 6,000 has been paid, leaving a balance at credit of profit and loss account of Tls. 17,306.56, which it is proposed to appropriate as follows:—

A dividend of 5% to shareholders (making 8% for the year)	10,000.00
Amount to write off for depreciation	5,000.00
Balance to carry forward	2,306.56
	<u>Tls. 17,306.56</u>

The sum of Tls. 5,000 now appropriated for further depreciation of the fleet, added to the amount already written off, will make a total of Tls. 17,297.18 standing at the credit of this account, and the reserve fund Tls. 3,003.47 will remain as before.

Three of the Company's wooden boats having been condemned, it was decided that they should be destroyed, and a sum of Tls. 1,400 was placed on fixed deposit with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank to make provision for replacing them when found necessary.

Mr. J. G. Purdon was invited to rejoin the Board of Directors, and Mr. T. R. Wheelock having resigned his seat in consequence of his departure from the East, Mr. F. Gove was invited to take his place. This will require the confirmation of the shareholders. In accordance with Clause 54 of the deed of settlement, Messrs. Carl Jantzen and E. G. Low retire but offer themselves for re-election.

Shanghai, 18th February, 1890.

WORKING ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1889.

Dr.		Tls.
To Directors' fees	1,500.00	
" Auditor's ..	100.00	
" Repairs account:		
Steam launches.		
6 months to 30th June	92.99	
6 months to 31st December ..	248.94	
	<u>341.93</u>	
Cargo Boats.		
6 months to 30th June	1,083.75	
6 months to 31st December ..	2,973.73	
	<u>4,057.48</u>	
" Balance carried to profit and loss account	19,644.82	
		<u>Tls. 25,644.23</u>

Cr.		Tls.
By Lighterage receipts, being proportion of net earnings under pool agreement:		
6 months to 30th June ..	9,981.88	
6 months to 31st December ..	15,138.09	
	<u>25,119.97</u>	
" Transfer Fees:		
6 months to 30th June ..	31.87	
6 months to 31st December ..	27.85	
	<u>59.72</u>	

" Interest:		
Current account		
6 months to 30th June	50.49	
6 months to 31st December	22.45	
Fixed Deposit	72.94	
	<u>391.60</u>	
		<u>464.54</u>
		<u>Tls. 25,644.23</u>

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		Tls.
1889, Mar. 4.		
To Amount written off for depreciation of fleet	5,000.00	
" Final dividend to shareholders for 1888—1,000 shares at Tls. 8.00 per share	8,000.00	

To Bonus to contributors for 6 months to 31st December, 1888	1,906.90
„ Balance carried forward to profit and loss account, 1889	3,661.74
	Tls. 18,568.64
1889, Aug. 2.	
To Interim dividend for 1889—1,000 shares at Tls. 6.00 per share	6,000.00
Dec. 31. To Balance	17,306.56
	Tls. 23,306.56
1888, Dec. 31. Cr.	
By Balance as per last report ...	18,568.64
	Tls. 18,568.64
1889, Mar. 4.	
By Balance brought forward from profit and loss account, 1888	3,661.74
Dec. 31.	
By Balance from working account for 1889	19,644.82
	Tls. 23,306.56

RESERVE ACCOUNT.	
1889. Dr.	Tls.
Feb. 26 To Amount written off for depreciation of fleet ...	7,297.18
„ Balance	3,003.47
	Tls. 10,300.65
1889. Cr.	Tls.
Dec. 31 By Balance as per last Report	10,300.65
	Tls. 10,300.65

BALANCE SHEET.	
Assets.	
Dr.	Tls.
Plant of 53 cargo boat and launches <i>Trojan and Hing-yün</i>	207,297.18
Fixed deposit with Agra Bank	9,603.47
„ „ Hongkong & Shanghai Bank for Rebuilding Fund.	1,400.00
Cash with Agra Bank	13,435.78
Outstanding Accounts	918.32
	Tls. 232,654.75

Liabilities.	
	Tls.
Capital account	200,000.00
Reserve fund 31st December, 1889.	3,003.47
Depreciation account	12,297.18
Outstanding dividends ...	24.00
„ „ bonus to contributors	23.54
	47.54
Balance of profit and loss account ...	17,306.56
	Tls. 232,654.75

E. & O. E.
F. H. BELL,
C. VINCENT SMITH,
Directors.
WHEELOCK & Co.,
Agents.

Audited and found correct,
J. D. THORBURN,
Auditor.
 Shanghai, 29th January, 1890.

[N. B.—The pool account, which is identical with that of the Co-operative Cargo Boat Company, will be found in another column in the accounts of that company.]

Amusements.

THE FANCY DRESS BALL AT THE CUSTOMS CLUB.

The members of the Customs Club are about to remove shortly to more commodious premises, so as a fitting conclusion to a series of a very successful and enjoyable dances that have taken place at their Club in the Whangpoo Road, it was determined

to give a Fancy Dress Ball on Tuesday last, and this was in every respect a great success. The ball room was tastefully decorated as usual, a free use of fairy lamps lending an additional charm to the scene. On entering the door, admission tickets were collected by a member of the committee who was got up as a Footman, and who maintained the *vie* with most appropriate gravity. Invitations had been generously given, and eagerly accepted, so the ball room was well filled with guests in fancy dresses of various descriptions, which formed quite a bewildering mass of colour. Proceedings were opened sharp at 9 o'clock by the Hunter's March, from *Faust*, to which most of the guests paraded the room, thus affording a chance for inspection of the dresses.

Certainly the most striking costume in the room was that of Britannia, worn by a lady whose imposing figure gave the necessary dignity to the character. Any little Portugal who had provoked her would have had a bad time of it. Scotia was also close at hand, with long flowing locks—a charming personification of the character, but Ireland, strange to say, was unrepresented amongst the fair sex. A costume that attracted deserved attention was that of an æsthetic young lady, which would also have done duty for a happily chosen Kate Greenaway, as it was one of the prettiest in the room. A fair Circassian made a marked impression, as the dress was not only exceedingly pretty but correct in every detail.

Strange to say there were no powder costumes, which was a pity, as they are always most effective. There were three classic dresses, that looked well, and Nursery Rhymes were represented by an excellent Old Mother Hubbard and two Red Riding Hoods, one of whom was an engaging illustration of the character. Sister Ann was present, looking happy in a well designed costume, and with her magnificent hair covering her like a cloak. Shakespeare found only one representative but that a very good one, in gentle Perdita, “the prettiest lass that ever ran on greensward,” but though she did not lack partners during the evening, there was, alas, no Florizel to say to her,

Your hand, my Perdita : so turtles pair
 That never mean to part.

There were peasant girls of various countries, including a *piquante* French and a commanding Italian girl, and a Auchmithie Fishwife, though in a dress more sober in colour than is generally seen around Auld Reekie. The representative of Snow had many admirers, but by some was taken for a bride. The dress of Carnival was picturesque and neat, but it is strange that it should have been entirely black. Perhaps this was so because last night's ball was held in Lent. Two Monte Carlos were present, one a very handsome costume that has been seen before. Esmeralda wore a bewitching dress, and though she carried her tambourine had left her goat at home. The Pansy dress was very striking, though simply designed. Night hovered around, and Chatterbox might have been anything. Folly was present, of course, but in a pleasing shape, and a smiling but no doubt severe Duenna kept a watchful eye on a short-skirted Carmen and giddy youngsters generally. There were, besides, many pretty dresses that added to the brilliancy of the assembly, but which bore no distinctive character.

There was less variety than usual about the dresses worn by the gentlemen. Indeed, it appeared at first sight as if the attendants at a Race Course had broken in on the festivities, as *asmethas* not only a Book-maker—the first quiet one ever met—but numerous Jockeys in all sorts of racing colours, and Niggers of every possible description and temperament. Some were cheerful and amusing, some noisy, and some melancholy as if quite overcome by the darkness of their complexions. One of

these sons of Africa was very well got up as the common or garden Nigger early in the evening, being placarded as “Wet Paint,” and carefully addressed to his residence in the country in case he got lost in the mysteries of his own jokes. But he was not so great a success when later on he discarded his outer garments and appeared as a *swe'l darkey* in correct dress coat and coloured continuations. Perhaps the most effective representation was that of Pears' Soap, for which the enterprising firm ought to send the wearer a handsome *doubleur*. His get-up was an exact copy of Millais' picture of “Bubbles” which at present adorns one of our chemist's shops in the interest of the above firm, and was exceptionally good and complete, the wearer having consented to sacrifice cherished hirsute appendages to carry this out. The friend of our youth, the Boy in Blue, was very much there, and did his best to sustain his nursery character; and in this he was ably assisted by a companion in Pink whose virtues have not been handed down to us by history, but who cheerfully maintained his local reputation by genially taking charge of everything. He too had sacrificed a heavy moustache as a tribute to art. A lucky winner of a recent Paper Hunt, who had lost his opportunity of displaying his hard-earned pink in the field, took this occasion to wear it for the first time, and was justly proud of it. A well known old resident appeared in a costume which seemed to give him some trouble, and got very mixed as to what character he represented. At first he wanted to call himself Oliver Cromwell, but eventually, after deep cogitation, arrived at the conclusion that he was “Pip,” by which he meant the renowned Pepys of diary fame, but the modern white wig worn would have made Pepys turn in his grave. On realising his real character the representative of Pepys was lost in thought so far that in the Caledonians he ignored his corner lady, and set all to himself with his back to the rest of the party. Four Dresden china—or Watteau—Shepherds were very handsome dresses and carried crooks, but, unhappily for themselves, were not accompanied as usual by shepherdesses in corresponding costumes. Whittington with his bundle and stick showed himself, but he was so plump and complaisant that there appeared to be no reason why he should run away, and he destroyed all romance by wearing spectacles. An American citizen who prides himself on his rigid republicanism wore the dress of an English diplomat, with the sash of the order of the Garter! A Circassian chief was well dressed, but was too brilliant about the gaiters. The tall figure of a well known resident was seen encased in a Harlequin dress, in which he was not comfortable, as it would not allow of his sitting down, tired as he became. He was rather disappointing to the other guests, as they were all the time expecting him to walk on his head, play some tricks, or fly through the window in the clever style he recently displayed at another entertainment, but he was subdued, melancholy, slow—a thing of patches: One gentleman appeared in what he probably thought was correct Japanese dress, but it was no compliment to that country, as it consisted simply of the *yukata*, or night dress, which Japanese men affect.

There were many kilts in the room, some of which had appeared at the last Caledonian Ball, and some of which ought to have appeared. A modern Rob Roy—half Cook's tourist and half Highland cateran—wore a kilt rather noticeable for its scantiness; and another Highland Chief was evidently not born for the clothes he wore, as they were much too ample, and bade fair to fall from off him in the mazy dance. There were also numerous uniforms, some of olden days, and others belonging to modern times—Austrian, German, Naval and Volunteer. The brilliant mixture formerly worn by our Light Horse

was very conspicuous. A bulky Chinaman barred the way of several Semitic Matadors. Two Neapolitan Fishermen were in evidence, but only one wore the traditional and picturesque costume. One of the active and most useful members of the Club wore the very good dress of a *sans culotte* and carried a formidable pike, but he was much too genial and mild in expression, and as he perambulated the room with his would-be terrible weapon on his arm, he looked more like a good-natured lamp-lighter. A Jester was present in a bewildering and many-coloured suit, and one gentleman in a modern dress coat and knee breeches, both adorned with bright blue trimming, was supposed to portray the latest Local Post stamp. The Yacht Club was worthily represented by the Commander, in uniform, of our crack boat; the Village Blacksmith brushed shoulders with a Cook and a Jäger, and a modest Irishman kept in the background with Sir Anthony Absolute and a quiet-looking Swidish Farmer who wore a good dress. There were many hybrid costumes that defied description, and which must have greatly puzzled their owners. The Elizabethan period found a solitary representative in Sir Walter Raleigh. Last, but not least, an Organ Grinder, very well got up, put in an appearance with his hurdy-gurdy—but, alas, it was a real one, and the man played it!

The dancing was kept up merrily until a late hour, and everything was managed exceedingly well, being under the special direction of the energetic Honorary Secretary, Mr. G. L. Hummel, ably assisted by Mr. F. W. E. Dülberg, the President, Mr. C. T. Bowring as Master of Ceremonies, and the Committee composed of Messrs. R. E. Bredon, B. Palamountain, J. Howell, G. Taylor, N. J. B. Galletti and J. W. Fenton.

A very good supper was provided during the evening, which was well appreciated. The music was all that could be desired, the piano being presided over by Mr. R. A. de Villard, assisted by some string instruments from the Town Band. The following is the programme of dances:

HUNTERS' MARCH (Faust).

1. Waltz Fédera.
2. Lancers Carmen.
3. Waltz Gondolier.
4. Waltz All in a Garden fair.
5. Caledonians Coot's Original.
6. Waltz Love's Dreamland.
7. Waltz Poinsettia.
8. Mazurka One Heart One Soul.
9. Lancers Pirates of Penzance.
10. Waltz Souviens toi.
11. Polka Bric-à-brac.
12. Waltz Prés de toi.
13. Caledonians Coot's Original.
14. Waltz My Pet.
15. Waltz Un premier Bouquet.
16. Waltz For you.
17. Quadrille Mikado.
18. Waltz La Gitana.
19. Waltz Tanzjubilanten.
20. Galop Prestissimo

Amongst those present, the following costumes were represented:—

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| Mrs. Andrew | ..... | A Swiss Peasant. |
| Miss Ashley | ..... | Monte Carlo. |
| Mrs. Beckhoff | ..... | Do. Game. |
| Mrs. Bidwell | ..... | Circassian. |
| Mrs. Bowman | ..... | A Greek Lady. |
| Mrs. Brown, C. | ..... | Swiss Peasant. |
| Mrs. Clough | ..... | Pansy. |
| Mrs. Ferrier | ..... | Auchmithie Fishwife. |
| Mrs. Gande | ..... | Little Red Riding Hood. |
| Mrs. Graham | ..... | Chinese Lady. |
| Miss Hanisch | ..... | Herald. |
| Miss Hanisch, E. | ..... | Flower Girl. |
| Mrs. Howes | ..... | Hospital Nurse. |
| Mrs. Hummel | ..... | Folly. |
| Mrs. Hutchison | ..... | Scotia. |
| Mrs. Jones, Malcolm | ..... | Carmen. |
| Miss Knott | ..... | Italian Peasant. |
| Mrs. Knudzen | ..... | Jill. |
| Mrs. Mann | ..... | Greek Lady. |
| Miss Mann | ..... | Athenian Girl. |

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Mrs. Moller | ..... | German Peasant. |
| Mrs. Moutrie | ..... | French Peasant. |
| Mrs. Ollerdesen | ..... | Sister Ann. |
| Mrs. Osborne, J. H. | ..... | Æsthetic Lady. |
| Mrs. Rawlinson | ..... | Red Riding Hood. |
| Mrs. Rigden | ..... | A Gleaner. |
| Mrs. Roberts, O. | ..... | From 'Faust' up to date. |
| Mrs. Stewart, J. A. | ..... | Queen of Night. |
| Miss Stewart | ..... | Snow. |
| Miss Stewart, E. | ..... | Chatterbox. |
| Mrs. Vita | ..... | America. |
| Miss White | ..... | Esmeralda. |
| Mrs. Wills | ..... | A Lady of the 15th Century. |

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------|------------|
| Miss Wills | ..... | Carnival. |
| Mrs. Wilmer Harris | ..... | Duenna. |
| Mrs. Woodward | ..... | Britannia. |
| Miss Woodward | ..... | Perdita. |

- Messrs.:
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------|------------------------------|
| Alan, H. T. | ..... | Courtier. |
| Allen, W. B. | ..... | Jockey. |
| Anderson, R. A. | ..... | Neapolitan Fisherman. |
| Ashley, C. J. | ..... | Jockey. |
| Astil, R. W. | ..... | "Jack." |
| Bennett, J. | ..... | Nigger. |
| Black, C. A. | ..... | Highland Uniform. |
| Bowman, A. R. | ..... | Flash Bookmaker. |
| Bowring, C. T. | ..... | Sans Culotte. |
| Bryan, J. | ..... | Village Blacksmith. |
| Campbell, D. | ..... | Jester. |
| Caterall, F. P. | ..... | Sir Anthony Absolute. |
| Clarke, Brodie A. | ..... | Highlander. |
| Coates, C. | ..... | Cavalryman. |
| Cottam, J. | ..... | Nigger. |
| Dülberg, F. | ..... | Mandarin. |
| Fenton, J. | ..... | Irishman. |
| Ferrier, J. | ..... | Auchmithie Fisherman. |
| Fitcock, R. E. C. | ..... | Light Horseman. |
| Fraser, W. S. | ..... | Highlander. |
| Galletti, N. | ..... | Clown. |
| Gandle, J. W. | ..... | Jockey. |
| Gibb, R. G. | ..... | Simple Simon. |
| Gilby, H. H. | ..... | "Bubbles," Pear's Soap. |
| Gilchrist, E. | ..... | Diplomat. |
| Glass, D. | ..... | Commodore. |
| Graham, W. D. | ..... | Volunteer Uniform. |
| Good, H. D. | ..... | Nigger. |
| Hanisch, F. | ..... | Samples. |
| Harris, R. J. | ..... | 16th Century. |
| Harris, Wilmer | ..... | Nigger. |
| Harris, W. R. | ..... | Pirate. |
| Hay, Drummond | ..... | Sir Walter Raleigh. |
| How, G. | ..... | Sailor. |
| Howell, J. | ..... | "Jeames." |
| Hummel, G. L. | ..... | A Courtier of Louis XIV. |
| Jacques, A. H. | ..... | Shervin (in "Dorothy") |
| Judah, J. E. | ..... | Courtier. |
| Kerr, R. M. | ..... | Boy in Blue. |
| Kirby, H. | ..... | Watteau Shepherd. |
| Levy, S. A. | ..... | Whittington. |
| Luscombe, E. | ..... | Watteau Shepherd. |
| Maignard, P. | ..... | Artillery Officer. |
| Mann, J. | ..... | Roman Youth. |
| Meyer, T. | ..... | German Hussar. |
| Moller, J. | ..... | German Rifleman. |
| Monour, Capt. | ..... | Little John. |
| Moore, I. | ..... | Samuel Pepys. |
| Noses, M. J. | | Indian. |
| Moutrie, S. | | College Don. |
| Muir, W. L. | | London Scottish Kilted Comp. |

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| Müller, C. | | Paper Hunter. |
| Navarra, B. R. A. | | Swedish Farmer. |
| Nessim, M. | | Matador. |
| Noel, G. W. | | Huntsman. |
| Orman, J. | ..... | Light Horseman. |
| Osborne, J. H. | ..... | Cook. |
| Palamountain, B. | ..... | Officer Louis XV. |
| Peace, G. | ..... | Courtier. |
| Pemberton, T. | ..... | Domino. |
| Renny, R. C. | ..... | Jockey. |
| Spooner, S. | ..... | Neapolitan Fisherman. |
| Swanstrom, C. A. | ..... | Gentleman of the 15th Century. |
| Symons, H. | ..... | Circassian Chief. |
| Taylor, G. | ..... | Rob Roy. |
| Teichert, P. | ..... | Torreador. |
| Timm, C. F. | ..... | Jäger. |
| Trueman, T. E. | ..... | Watteau Shepherd. |
| Turner, Irwin | ..... | Japanese. |
| Urquhart, J. | ..... | Watteau Shepherd. |
| Vinay, H. | ..... | Highland Chief. |
| Wedemeyer, C. | ..... | Harlequin. |
| White, W. A. | ..... | Italian Organ Grinder. |

THE CHARITY CONCERT AT THE LYCEUM.

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul gave a concert in aid of the poor under its protection on Monday evening at the Lyceum Theatre. The house was fairly well filled,

but doubtless many people who had taken tickets were unable to be present owing to other engagements, for the Society has reaped the substantial sum of eight hundred dollars with which it will be able to carry on its good work. A concert of this description does not evoke criticism, and the various numbers of the programme were most creditably executed.

A select orchestra under the able direction of M. Vela played a couple of overtures and ended the concert with what might be aptly termed the national anthem of orchestras in Shanghai—Handel's March in "Scipio." Mme. Portier and Mme. Petersen gave great pleasure to the audience in their respective songs, "Forget," and "Across the Sands." Miss Couto and Miss Knights found equal favour with their piano solos. Mr. R. de Malherbe gave an excerpt from Faust; and Mr. Franks sang Hatton's "Fair is my Love", in his usual finished manner. Mention should be made of Mendelssohn's Quartette, Op. 1., which was fairly rendered by Miss Couto, Cher. Vela, and Messrs. H. R. Hearn and J. Danenberg.

The following was the programme:—

PART I.

- 1.—Overture—"Le Chevalier Breton" A. Herman.
Gentlemen Amateurs.
- 2.—Song—"Avant de quitter ces lieux" (from Faust) ...Gounod.
Mr. R. de Malherbe.
- 3.—Piano Solo—"Nocturne Op. 40 ...Chopin.
32 and Polonaise Op. 40 ...Chopin.
Miss Knights.
- 4.—Song—"Forget?" H. Pontet.
Mme. E. G. Portier.
- 5.—Quartette—Adagio and Allegro Vivace Op. 1 Mendelssohn.
Miss Couto, Cher. Vela, Messrs. H. R. Hoarn and J. Danenberg.

PART II.

- 6.—Overture—"Ninon de l'Enclos" A. Lamotte.
Gentlemen Amateurs.
- 7.—Song—"Across the Sands" H. Millard.
Mme. N. C. R. Petersen.
- 8.—Piano Solo—"Souvenir de Rigoletto" (Verdi) Thalberg.
Miss Couto.
- 9.—Song—"Fair is my Love" Hatton.
Mr. A. J. Franks.
- 10.—March in Scipio Handel.
Gentlemen Amateurs.

MR. CROMPTON'S ORGAN RECITAL.

It is not every performance that could draw a considerable number of people from the cheerful comfort of a warm room with its cosy ease and brightness on such a night as that of Wednesday last, and the fact that there was such a number at the Cathedral tends to prove, what is often disputed, that Shanghai, or at any rate a section of it, is musical in the best sense of the word.

It is true that Mr. Crompton's programme though classical, was not severely so, most of the numbers being well-known and favourite pieces. The Fantasia on Mendelssohn's *Athalie* by Dr. Steggall has not within our recollection been performed here before, and the magnificent ending of the chorus in it, "Heaven and the earth display," was a most appropriate *finale*. Another new piece was a charmingly pretty little movement by King Hall. With such favourites as Guilman's Pastoral, played by desire, Chopin's Funeral March, "I know that my Redeemer liveth," and "The Lost Chord," a Shanghai audience was sure to have been more than satisfied. Mr. Wedemeyer contributed two vocal pieces; Recitative and Air, "The Trumpet shall sound," and Gounod's "Glory to thee my God this night." The former taxed his powers to the utmost, but in the latter he was more at home, and his singing was quite up to his usual high standard.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB RACE MEETING, 1890.

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

First Day, 26th February.

- 1.—THE WONG-NEI-CHONG STAKES, for China ponies; weight for inches; entrance \$5; with \$100 added. Half-a-mile.
- Mr. Sid's g. *Chaser*13.2 11.4—1
- 2.—THE SELLING PLATE, value \$100, for China ponies, *bona fide* griffins at the date of entry, other than subscription griffins 7lb. extra; weight for inches; the winner to be sold by auction for \$75, half of any surplus from sale to go to the second pony and half to the fund; entries to close at noon on 25th February to Clerk of the Course; entrance \$5. Once round.
- Mr. Sykes' g. *Nordenfeldt* 13.1 11.1—1
- 3.—THE ASHLEY CUP, presented by A. E. Solomon, Esq., for China ponies; entrance \$5; weight for inches. One mile.
- Mr. John Peel's d. *Golden Hope*.13.1 11.1—1
- 4.—THE HONGKONG DERBY, sweepstakes of \$20 each, half forfeit if declared on or before day of closing entries, with \$100 added for 1st pony, and \$50 for 2nd; for all China ponies *bona fide* griffins at date of entry (Saturday, 25th January, 1890); first pony, 70 per cent.; second, 20 per cent.; third, 10 per cent.; weight 10st. 10lb.; one-mile-and-a-half.
- Mr. Sid's g. *Entertainer* 13.3 10 10—1
- 5.—THE LUSITANO CUP, presented by the members of the Club Lusitano, for China ponies; weight for inches; previous winner at this meeting, 10lb. extra; subscription griffins of this season, 1889-90, allowed 5lb.; entrance \$10; second pony to receive half the entrance money. One-mile-and-a-quarter
- Mr. Sid's rn. *Ali Baba*.....13.1 11.1—1
- 6.—THE VALLEY STAKES, sweepstakes of \$5 each, with \$100 added, for subscription griffins of this season, 1889-90, only; weight for inches. Three-quarters-of-a-mile.
- Mr. Darius' g. *Leander*..... 12.3 10.9—1
- 7.—THE FOOCHOW CUP, value \$200, presented by the Foochow community, for China ponies; weight for inches; entrance \$5. Two miles.
- Mr. J. D. Humphreys' ch. *Volcano*13.1 11.1—1
- 8.—THE CANTON CUP; for China ponies, *bona fide* griffins at date of entry (25th January 1890); weight for inches; winners at this meeting 7lb. extra; entrance \$5. One mile.
- Mr. Sid's g. *Enticer*.....13.2 11.4—1
- 9.—FAREWELL CUP, presented by J. Bell-Irving, Esq., for all China ponies; weight for inches; previous winners at this meeting 7lb. extra; entrance \$5. One-mile-and-a-half.
- Mr. Buxey's g. *Home Guard* ...13-1 11.1—1
- 10.—THE COMPRADORES' CUP; for all subscription griffins of this season, 1889-90, only; weight for inches; winner of Valley Stakes, 5lb. extra; entrance \$5. Second pony to receive half the entrance money. One mile.
- Mr. Sykes' g. *Musket* 12.3 10.9—1

Second Day, 27th February.

- 1.—SELLING STAKES, value \$100, for all China ponies, *bona fide* griffins at this meeting; other than subscription griffins 7lb. extra; weight for inches; the winner to be sold by auction for \$50, half of any surplus from sale to go to the second pony and half to the fund; entries to close at noon on 26th February to Clerk of the Course. Entrance \$5. Half-a-mile.

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| Mr. G. T. Veitch's w. <i>Pedro Blanco</i> | 13.1 11.1...1 |
| " Benedick's g. <i>Don John</i> | 13.1 11.1...2 |
| " G. H. Potts' g. <i>Kettle</i> | 13.3 11.7...3 |
- 2.—THE SCURRY STAKES, sweepstakes of \$5 each, with \$100 added, second pony to receive \$50, for all *bona fide* griffins at the date of entry. Subscription griffins of this season, 1889-90, non-winners allowed 5lb. Weight for inches. One mile.

Mr. Sid's g. <i>Enticer</i>	13.2 11. 4...1
" McCullagh's b. <i>Materialist</i>	13.1 11. 1... 2
" J. D. Humphreys' g. <i>Vernal</i>	13.0 10.12 . 3

 - 3.—THE EXCHANGE PLATE, presented by the bankers and exchange brokers of Hongkong; for China ponies; weight for inches; entrance \$10; second pony to receive half of the entrance money. One-mile-and-three-quarters.

Mr. J. D. Humphreys' ch. <i>Volcano</i>	13.1 11. 1...1
" John Peel's g. <i>Leap Year</i>	13.0 10.12 . 2
" Sid's bk. <i>Myth</i>	13.0 10.12 . 3

 - 4.—THE GERMAN CUP; presented by members of the German Club; for subscription griffins of this season, 1889-90, only; weight for inches; entrance \$10; second pony to receive 75 per cent; third pony 25 per cent of entrance money. One-mile-and-a-quarter.

Mr. Darius' g. <i>Leander</i>	12.3 10.9...1
" Jones's d. <i>Llygodan</i>	13.1 11.1... 2
" John Peel's g. <i>Total Loss</i>	13.3 11.7...3

 - 5.—THE PROFESSIONAL CUP, presented; for all China ponies; weight for inches; winners of one race at this meeting, 7lb. extra; of two races, 10lb. extra; and of three races, 15lb. extra; previous non-starters to carry 12st; entrance \$10; second pony to receive 50 per cent. of entrance money; third pony 25 per cent. One-mile-and-a-quarter.

Mr. Sid's d. <i>Susevind</i>	13.1 11.1...1
" John Peel's d. <i>Orlando</i>	13.3 11.7 . 2
" Ten Broeck's g. <i>Wild Mint</i>	12.2 10.6...3

 - 6.—THE PARSEE CUP, presented by the Parsee community, for China ponies, being *bona fide* griffins at date of entry; weight for inches; winners of one race at this meeting, 7lb. extra; of two races, 12lb. extra; subscription griffins of this season, non-winners, allowed 5lb.; entrance \$5. Seven furlongs.

Mr. John Peel's d. <i>Duncraggan</i>	13.0 10.12...1
" Tasman's g. <i>Coonalpyn</i>	13.0 10.12 . 2
" J. D. Humphreys' g. <i>Vernal</i>	13.0 10.12...3

 - 7.—THE HONGKONG CLUB CUP, presented, for China ponies; weight for inches; entrance \$15; second pony to receive 50 per cent., third pony, 25 per cent. of entrance money. One-mile-and-a-half.

Mr. Buxey's g. <i>Home Guard</i>	13.1 11.1 1
" John Peel's d. <i>Golden Hope</i>	13.1 11.1 . 2
" Sid's b. <i>Sonnenstrahl</i>	13.2 11.4...3

 - 8.—THE JOCKEY CUP, for subscription ponies of this and last season, winners excluded; to be ridden by jockeys who have never had a winning mount previous to this meeting in Hongkong or China; weight for inches; entrance \$5. One mile.

Mr. Benedick's b. <i>Claudio</i>	12.3 10. 9 . 1
" Ardy's spd. <i>First Venture</i>	13.1 11. 1...2
" Jay's g. <i>Haben</i>	13.0 10.12...3

 - 9.—THE BROKERS' CUP, presented, for all China ponies; weight for inches; previous winners at this meeting, 7lb. extra; subscription griffins of this season, 1889-90, allowed 5lb.; entrance \$5; second pony to receive half entrance money. Three-quarters-of-a-mile.

Mr. Sid's b. <i>Waldo</i>	13.1 11. 1...1
" Buxey's b. <i>Skipjack</i>	13.0 10.12...2
" J. D. Humphreys' b. <i>Visitation</i>	12.2 10. 6 . 3

 - 10.—THE WELTER PLATE, for all ponies; weight 12st.; previous winners at this meeting, 7lb. extra; entrance \$5, with \$100 added. One mile.

Mr. Pogose's g. <i>Saltpetre</i>	13.0 12.0...1
" Sykes' g. <i>Mullingar</i>	13.2 12.0...2
" Sid's g. <i>Enchanter</i>	13.3 12.0 . 3

It will be seen that the result of the Exchange Plate was a repetition of the

Foochow Cup, and the German Cup of the Valley Stakes, the same three ponies being placed in the same order, respectively, in the two pairs of races.

Correspondence.

PERSONAL PURITY.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MR. A. S. DYER.

SIR,—I was among those who listened last night to your address on "Personal Purity." Discussion was invited, but most of the young men in Shanghai are denied that practice which is essential to effective public speaking. Perhaps, then, you will permit one of them to lay before you in writing the criticism which he was unable orally to express.

I observed that your meeting was attended by a number of elderly men, on whose gray locks the assaults of the flesh must long have fallen harmless; by several men of middle age, whom marriage had lifted above temptation, and by four or five only of the young men whom you sought to reach. You pride yourself on being the "best-hated man in India." You can lay no such flattering unction to your soul here. Shanghai has shown that it neither loves you nor hates you; it only ignores you. It is well that you should know why.

It is because we believe that you, however well meant your efforts may be, are doing actual harm to the cause you have come to advocate. Long before we heard your name the state of morality in Shanghai had engaged the attention of the community. There were and are influences at work of which you are entirely ignorant. We have seen and still see a gradual, but constant rise in the moral tone of our society of which you have never dreamed, but which many thankfully recognise as the work of men, and still more of women, who would shrink from a public platform and on whose quiet labours utterances like yours fall like a kind of blight.

You are much addicted to citing isolated texts of Scripture in support of your views. It is perhaps consequent on this habit that you have overlooked the broad teaching of the Bible on the subject. We are told repeatedly that our life is a warfare and we the warriors; we are to be armed, vigilant, courageous. We are to resist the devil and he will flee from us. Against all classes of sins we are to fight to the death; with one exception only, and then—*we are to run away*. "Resist the Devil," but "Flee youthful lusts."

Who can doubt the divine wisdom and common sense of such a command? You have nothing new to tell us of the evil in our midst. We know it better than you. You have no remedy to suggest. There is none. There is only flight. We will have no parleyings, no discussions, no appeals, no societies, no public mention even of the matters which form the material of your rhetoric. All these things only aggravate the evil we seek to cure.

The time of your youth is past, and with it the sympathies youth engenders. Remember, I pray you, if you must speak, that words which fall coldly from your lips may drop like oil on the passionate fires of the young. You boast of your knowledge of the ways of vice; beware, when next you address a meeting here, lest you be unwittingly imparting your knowledge to the innocent. These things we have a right to demand of you when you rise to speak, or bid you forever hold your peace.

I am, etc., etc.,

A YOUNG MAN.

Shanghai, 21st February.

Miscellaneous.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LIFE IN
CHINA IN THE FIFTIES.

II.

In the spring of 1857, I, with several friends, left Hongkong for Shanghai, *via* Foochow, in the small coasting steamer *Antelope*. No noteworthy incident occurred until after leaving Foochow when, as we were enjoying our after dinner coffee and cigars, and by chance discussing the question of thirteen sitting down at table that had occurred at a dinner at which one of the party had shortly before been present, a violent thump and tremulous motion of the vessel announced the unpleasant fact that we had struck upon something. We rushed on deck and found the steamer hard and fast on a reef near Matsui Island. Fortunately the day was fine and there was no sea on.

Our captain, who was a well-known character on the coast, whatever he may have been as a navigator, assured us that the tide was low, and that when it rose we should soon float off. We waited patiently for this happy termination of our troubles, but the afternoon wore on, and the tide, instead of rising continued to fall; as it did so, the steamer careened more and more until she reached an angle at which there was serious danger of her slipping off suddenly and filling with water. Then spars were got out to shore her up, the water was pumped from her tanks, and what cargo she had, consisting of several hundred slabs of tin, was thrown overboard. Still the tide continued to recede, night came on, and what added to the peril of our situation was the fact that all along that part the pirates were rampant, and we might expect to be attacked by them at any moment. Our steamer was well armed, as were all foreign vessels trading on the coast at that time, and carried a 32-pounder gun, but, situated as we were, it was, of course quite impossible to use it. All the small arms, however, were brought into requisition, and throughout the night we sat in a most uncomfortable position with our guns ready for use at a moment's notice. We had frequent alarms, as a number of native craft came near us, but, doubtless, presuming we were simply at anchor did not molest us. Our captain quite lost his head, and swore he would blow his brains out if he failed to get the vessel off. The first officer, however, fortunately was cool and collected, and it was by his efforts that necessary steps were taken for protecting the steamer and ultimately getting her out of the perilous position she was in. At a later date Colonel Ward, the commander of the ever victorious Chinese army was pointed out to me, and I was certain that in him I recognised the quondam first officer of the *Antelope*, who had shown so much self-possession on this occasion. Soon after day-break, the water being then high, an anchor was run out, and with much difficulty, and when we had almost given up hope, as the water was falling again, the vessel glided off the rocks and once more floated on an even keel. We then despatched some boats full of men starting off from the shore, and our captain, who had recovered his courage ordered the 32-pounder gun to be loaded, and sent two or three shells among them, which soon turned them back; but, as the steamer was not leaking, and having steam up was now again under control and ready to resume her voyage, this appeared to me to be a most uncalculated and cowardly proceeding, the more so as we had no reason to suppose their intentions towards us were of a hostile nature. However, such eccentricities on the part of captains navigating these waters were not uncommon in those days. After this all went smoothly until we were in the Yangtze-kiang, going up the river, with a

fair tide and at full speed. We were sitting at table in the evening and having a game of whist with the captain, expecting to be at Woosung in another hour, when the anchor was let go, and the captain left us, quietly going on deck and saying he would be back in a moment. We accordingly remained seated, looking over the cards that had just been dealt, and awaiting the resumption of the game, until it appeared the captain was keeping us an unreasonable time, when we also went on deck to find out what had become of him. The night was dark and cold, and the vessel lying at anchor, the only sound to be heard being the gurgling of the water as the swift current swept by. We searched in vain for our crafty skipper, who was nowhere to be found; but as we were returning shivering to our warm quarters below, the steward, in response to our enquiries, informed us with a cunning leer that he had left in his boat and gone up to Shanghai. We then realised that we had been nicely tricked, and were in the unfortunate predicament in which passengers often found themselves in those days who travelled by private steamers. The captain had carried with him opium news of importance, and we were to be kept on board in durance vile until his consignees had time to operate and make the most of it. All the next day, and the next after that we spent on board the steamer in the muddy and cheerless waters of the river; we tried in vain to get a China boat to take us off, but it was of no avail, for whenever one showed a disposition to come alongside, a warning voice from the steamer caused her to sheer off. At last when our patience was nearly exhausted, and after two days' delay, the steamer got under way again and soon we were in Shanghai, when profuse apologies were made for the detention to which we had been subjected, with the usual "you know how it was," &c., with which we had perforce to be content, resolving however never again to be caught in a similar trap if we could help it.

W. S. WETMORE.

NOTES FROM NATIVE PAPERS.

The stone steps leading up to the Tai-ho Gate of the Palace at Peking, which was destroyed recently by fire, were of marble, described as white jade of the Han dynasty, excavated from the quarry some 1,000 years ago. The stone balustrade before and behind this gate was of the same valuable stone, and the same was the case with the Chaoteh and Chentu Gates. Eight or nine tenths of these stones were split by the heat of the conflagration, and as no such material had been obtained from the quarries for 70 or 80 years, the officials in charge of the repairs now in progress were sorely perplexed to obtain it, knowing that similar old stones would cost Tls. 20 each, and that at that price even they could not get a sufficient quantity for the work. The stone-builders "Yung-t'suan" and others who have the contract have now luckily discovered stones like the old Han ones in a hill to the north of Keichow, in Shun-tien Prefecture, Chihli, near Peking, and a number of these are now stored outside the Tung-hua Gate of Peking, ready for use. The find is considered a happy omen, and people are saying that earth does not conceal her treasures when a good sovereign is on the throne.

In official circles at Peking it is stated that the foreign ministers at Peking have addressed a request to the Tsung-li Yamèn to be admitted to audience and allowed to present their credentials in person to the Emperor, who has now reigned for nearly a year since he attained his majority. The nature of the Yamèn's reply has not yet transpired.

At Tahoki, Kuangtung, a man speaking with the accent of another province suddenly went behind a naive and cut off his

queue with scissors. The man operated upon felt a pull, looked round, and seized the stranger, who was searched and found to have a number of other dis severed queues concealed about his person, about which he could give no satisfactory explanation. He was then set upon by the crowd and nearly beaten to death. There has been a good deal of such queue-cutting of late about the city and country, supposed to be the work of the agents of a seditious secret society, and the provincial authorities have issued stringent orders to the civil and military officials to be on the look-out for such people.

Last year was a bad one for native merchants at Hankow, and just after the China New Year's annual setting-up the Yüan Ch'ang-yik, a great silk firm, failed, with liabilities to the extent of over Tls. 100,000. It was an old established house, of the best credit, and as it became bankrupt very suddenly and unexpectedly, a great many other firms are involved in loss. Arbitration has been resorted to, and a percentage paid to the creditors from the bankrupt stock. Twelve years' time has been accorded for the final settlement. — *Shên Pao*.

Mr. P'ei, District Magistrate of Shanghai, has returned in the *Pekin* from an interview with the Viceroy Tséng Kuo-chüan at Nanking. He is shortly to leave Shanghai on promotion, as on the 14th February the Provincial Treasurer at Soochow directed Mr. Luh Yuan-shéng (魏元昇) District Magistrate of Kiang-ning Hien, (one of the two *hien*s under the Prefect of Nanking), to hold himself in readiness to proceed to Shanghai as Shanghai *hien*, or District Magistrate.

The French and American religious Missions are both making great progress at Nanking. On 2nd February there was a demonstration made against the American chapel in the north of the city by some civil-disposed persons. The assembly in the church, consisting of over 100 converts, hurriedly dispersed, and the American preacher had to escape from mob violence as best he could. The soldiers of the Yangwu Kùh, or Committee for Foreign Business, hastened to give protection, but before they arrived, the mob, after smashing everything in the chapel, had dispersed, and only two arrests were made, the persons captured by the guardians of the law loudly protesting their innocence. They were sent to the Shang Yüan Hien (one of the two *hien* Magistrates under the Prefect of Nanking). The Prefect himself then went to view the damage, for which Mr. Wei (魏) the American Missionary demanded Tls. 200 compensation. The matter was finally arranged by the punishment of the two rioters arrested, who received a flagellation with the bamboo and were expelled in the *cauque* outside the chapel for a period.

A traveller from Lienkiang, in the Foochow Prefecture, relates the following queer custom prevalent there among the superstitious people. Just outside the city gate of Lienkiang is a lake, in area over a hundred *k'ing* [a *k'ing* is 100 *mo*, or 15.13 acres]. By the lake is an ancient tomb of some distinguished officer of state before which, as guardians, stand facing each other two colossal statues, one representing a civil, the other a military official. The former has his back to the lake, and his face to the West; the latter, has his back to the hill, and faces East. Long years have they stood there, in life-like attitude, absorbing the warmth of the sun by day and bathed in the pure rays of the moon by night, until at last, in popular belief, they have become *ling*,—acquired life and power. The people have recourse to the stone civilian in all love troubles. The perfumed smoke of incense curls round his kindly, thoughtful face, and complaints of conjugal unhappiness, longings of suffering lovers for a meeting, are whispered

into the cold ear of this mandarin, but only whispered, as not to be overheard by his military colleague, who stands there forbidding and frowning as if he had sterner affairs to attend to than poor lovers' woes.—*Hu Pao.*

Every year, after the closing of the Peiho by ice, the foreign officials and traders at Peking send their letters south by couriers overland. From Tientsin to Tsingkiangpu is one route, and to Chefoo another route. The courier to Tsingkiangpu crosses the Yangtze from Kuachow, on its north or left bank, to Chinking on its south, and from Chinking the mail goes by steamer to Shanghai. The courier for Chefoo proceeds via Tehchow, Tsiho, Lihcheng, Tsingchow and Laichow. For years no accident had occurred, when this winter the courier was stopped by highwaymen at Weihién, in the Laichow Prefecture, Shantung, and robbed of his bag of mails from a German steamer which had arrived at Chefoo. He at once informed Shêng Taotai, Superintendent of Chefoo Customs, who offered a large reward and issued stringent orders to the local authorities for the recovery of the bag and apprehension of the robbers. On 28th January Shêng Taotai had the satisfaction of sending on the recovered bag, none of the contents of which were missing though it had been opened in the expectation that objects of value were contained in it.

The following is the list of members of the Tsung-li Yamén, or Foreign Office at Peking, as at present constituted:—

President—Prince K'ing. Ministers—Fu-k'un, Hü Kêng-shen, Tsêng Ki-tseh, Süh-ch'ang, Liao Show-hêng, Sun Yü-hwên, Sü Yung-i. Chief Secretaries—Ch'ün Ch'êng, K'ung King-fu, Shu Wen, Yüan Chang. Assistant Secretaries—Lü Hai-kwan, Yü k'wan. Clerks of Department, English—Liang Yu-chang, Shên Wei-ch'êng, Ch'ên Ming-k'an, Wu King-k'i, T'ung Teh-chang, Yang I-chi. French—En-lin, Shwang-show, Sung-yao, Ch'ung-kwan, Yeh K'ing-tsêng, Chang Chao-lan, Sih T'ung. Russian—Liang-p'ai, Sü Pao-k'ien, Yü Chung-jing, Wei tsin-chên, Sung Ch'êng-siang, Shêng-yün. United States—T'an Kin-chao, Ch'ang-heng, Li Kwoh-sin, Ho Chao-h'ung, Sü Kia-ting, Sung-nien. Maritime Defence Department, (*hai-fang*)—Yeh K'ing-tsêng, T'ung Teh-chang, Hêng-show, Jui-liang. Superintendency of employés and current business and Manchu Registry Department—Lien-kwei, Ch'ang-fah, T'ung-hui, Sung-show, Ch'ang-ming (all Manchus.) Ministers or Envoys to Foreign Countries: England, France, Italy, Belgium—Sieh Fuh-ch'êng; Russia, Germany, Austria, Holland—Hung Kün. United States, Spain, Peru—Ts'ui Kuoh-ên. Japan—Li Shu-ch'ang.

Of the above 52 high officials, 14 are Manchus, 5 Mongols, and 33 Chinese. Of the Chinese, 8 are from Chêkiang, 7 from Kiangsu (including the Minister to England and Germany), 4 from Szechuan, 3 from Chihli, 3 from Shantung, and only 1 from the south, (Fukien).

This seems to bear out the saying recorded by Tsêng Kuo-fan, who while admiring the pre-eminence of his native Hunan for soldiers, wrote 文風以江浙為極盛, "For learning (and consequent advancement as civilians) give me Kiangsu and Chêkiang."—*Hu Pao.*

L'INFLUENZA.

We find the following clever skit in the *Courrier d'Haiphong*, and append a free translation:—

Air: c'EST LE PETIT VIN DE BORDEAUX.
Les docteurs gens pratiques,
Pour désigner les maux
Dont souffrent leurs pratiques,
Souvent changent de mots.
Devant leurs aspects rogués,
De frayer restant coi,
Le bon public, de drogues
Se bourre. C'est pourquoi

L'honnête rhume de cerveau,
Oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh !
Qu'on nommait hier "coryza"
Ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah !
Aujourd'hui porte un nom nouveau ;
Oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh !
On l'appelle l' "influenza".
Ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah !
En affublant la grippe
D'un masque et d'un faux nez,
Par la peur on agrippe
Tous les enchifrenés.
Paris et sa banlieue,
Campagnards, Parisiens,
En toussant, font la queue
Devant les pharmaciens.

L'honnête rhume de cerveau, etc.
(Paris). JULES JOUY.

1

The doctors, when they please
To keep alive the flame
Of faith in some disease,
Will often change its name.
The public, silly dunce,
Will to the doctor fly,
And cram itself at once
With drugs ; and that is why
The good old cold of long ago,
Oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh !
Which they called lately coryza ;
Ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah !
Has got a new name now, you know,
Oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh ! oh !
They call it now *influenza*.
Ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah ! ah !

2

With a mask and a false nose
They dress up Mr. Cold ;
And gather up all those
Who sneeze, into their fold.
Till town and country folk,
Their sides with coughing sore,
Unconscious of the joke,
Crowd round the doctor's door.

Chorus:—

The good old cold of long ago, etc.

3

Poor public, it's your loss,
They fool you as they wish.
Why, under a new sauce,
It's just the same old dish !
Such simpletous are we,
Not one of us will stop
To think, this fricassee
Is plain old mutton chop !

Chorus:—

The good old cold of long ago, etc.

Law Reports.

H.B.M.'s SUPREME COURT.

Shanghai, 21st February.
Before Sir RICHARD RENNIE, Chief Justice.
I LIN-YIH AND CHANG PING-WBA v.
BIRT & Co.

Judgment in this case was delivered.
His LORDSHIP said—In this suit the plaintiffs demand the return of a sum of Tls. 8,000 which they allege that they advanced to the defendants as a loan or deposit in consideration of I Lin-yih being appointed compradore to the defendants' business, which he has not been. The defendants reply that they never contemplated any such appointment and that the sum of Tls. 8,000 to which they understood the plaintiffs to refer was in point of fact advanced to them by one Yin Shen-fu in view of his being appointed compradore, and that

they did not in any way know the plaintiffs in the matter. (His Lordship here mentioned that he had not written a judgment, as he did not consider it necessary, but that he had made some notes of the evidence, which he would now read.) In support of the plaintiffs' case the plaintiff Chang Ping-wha went into the witness box and deposed that having been informed by Yin Shen-fu that Birt & Co. were in want of a compradore, or would appoint one who could deposit Tls. 10,000 with them for the purposes of their business, he (Chang Ping-wha) consulted with I Lin-yih, and agreed with him that he should be produced as compradore, that the two of them should advance Tls. 10,000 and share the profits, if I Lin-yih got the berth. He then says that, understanding from Yin Shen-fu that the matter was going through, he went himself to the defendants' office with Tls. 5,000 in bank orders and gave the money there to Yin Shen-fu for the purposes of the deposit. He did not see the defendant, Mr. Liddell, but after waiting some time Yin Shen-fu brought him out a receipt signed by Birt & Co. and made out to Yin Shen-fu. He says he cannot read English, but was satisfied on seeing that the figures, Tls. 5,000, which he could make out were on the receipt, and that having asked for and been unable to see the master when he first went to the office, he was content and left with the receipt. Subsequently, and in consequence of a communication from Yin Shen-fu, he, together with I Lin-yih and I Wei-chên, who was to be their shroff in the business, went again to the defendants' office and waited outside with I Lin-yih and I Wei-chên. He did not see Mr. Liddell on that occasion either. I Lin-yih confirms Chang Ping-wha's evidence as to the consultation and agreement to advance Tls. 10,000 on consideration of his being compradore to defendants—this was about the 18th October—and also as to going to defendants' office on the 7th November. He says he then saw Mr. Liddell, that Yin Shen-fu acted as interpreter, and that he (I Lin-yih) asked through him when he could come in and begin work as compradore ; that Mr. Liddell said, always through Yin Shen-fu, that he had not settled his accounts with the old compradore, that it would be some few days yet before this would be done, and that he (I Lin-yih) must advance some Tls. 3,000 or Tls. 4,000 more to square up with the old compradore ; and he agreed to pay and did pay Tls. 3,000 on Nov. 11th, going for that purpose himself to the defendants' office. He says, and in this he is confirmed by I Wei-chên, that he gave the money in bank orders to I Wei-chên who handed it to Mr. Liddell, who then had a receipt made out, signed it, put it on the table and when they were leaving gave it to him. He also says he cannot speak English, but could make out the figures of Tls. 3,000 and thought all was proper. He says he went again to the defendants' office on the 16th and 18th, but was each time put off, and that he went again on the 28th when he learnt that Yin Shen-fu had disappeared, and saw Mr. Liddell, who repudiated having received any money from him and said that he had received some from Yin Shen-fu and that Yin Shen-fu owed him over Tls. 10,000. The evidence of these two men is in a manner confirmed by certain witnesses who connect the bank orders which the plaintiffs allege to have paid to the defendants with certain bank orders subsequently paid into the defendants' account at the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank ; and I Wei-chên, their alleged shroff, also gives confirmatory evidence of the arrangement with him and the visits he made with them to the defendants' office. On the side of the defendants, Mr. Liddell says he is the sole partner in the defendants' firm ; that he never thought of engaging the plaintiff I Lin-yih as his compradore and had no dealings with him. He admits having seen

I Lin-yih and I Wei-chên twice or three times at his office, but absolutely denies having had with them through Yin Shen-fu the conversation to which they depose. He admits having on one occasion exchanged, as I Wei-chên had also alleged, a few words in English with that person which had no reference to business. He says that the only negotiations he had at this time with any person as to his becoming compradore were with Yin Shen-fu. He agrees that he did purpose to take Yin Shen-fu as his compradore and required Tls. 10,000 deposit from him. Yin Shen-fu produced to him Tls. 5,000 on the 24th October and he gave a receipt for it to him in his name but knew no one else in the matter. Again, on 11th November he received Tls. 3,000 from Yin Shen-fu himself in bank orders, and when making notes of the numbers and amounts of these, two Chinamen walked in whom he now recognises as I Lin-yih and I Wei-chên but he did not then, nor did he think that they had anything to do with the business, although Yin Shen-fu told him they were friends of his. From first to last and until after the disappearance of Yin Shen-fu, whose appointment as compradore was then being made out, he, Mr. Liddell, says he had no idea of any other applicant for the post of compradore than Yin Shen-fu, and that he took the Tls. 3,000 as coming from him and waived payment of the balance of Tls. 2,000 because they had at that time already in their hands that amount of money belonging to him. Mr. Liddell's evidence is confirmed to a certain extent by that of his brother, his compradore, Mr. Vale, and others, but Yin Shen-fu having absconded, and not since been heard of, his evidence is of course wanting. Mr. Liddell states in addition that just before Yin Shen-fu absconded, it came to light by his own admission that many goods were missing from the godowns which he, Yin Shen-fu, had had in charge, and he says that he, at Yin Shen-fu's suggestion, applied the Tls. 3,000 to discharging advances made by the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank upon certain of the missing goods.

There has been much evidence regarding the prevailing rumour in compradoric circles as to who was to be compradore. Yin Shen-fu, it is said, was going to be compradore; and then rebutting evidence was called to show that in the piece-goods world everyone believed that the other man was to be compradore. There the evidence rests, and it is by no means so satisfactory as it might be, as of course must be expected in all cases where the most important witness is missing; and we are left to conjecture what his evidence would be. Now I find at any rate certain facts are tolerably clear. I find the defendants have certainly received, whether directly or indirectly, the sum of Tls. 8,000 from the plaintiffs, either on deposit or lent at interest as a guarantee or inducement to take into their employ a new compradore. They have not done so, and have devoted the money to a totally different purpose. The evidence of the plaintiffs and their witnesses satisfies me that they actually did advance the money in China bank orders, which have been clearly traced; and although I must say their story as to having been led to believe that I Lin-yih was to be the new compradore is not a very probable one, there is very little in the defendants' evidence to render it incredible. It is difficult to see why the plaintiffs should have invented the story if it be an entire fabrication, when it would seem to have been just as good for their purpose to allege that they gave the money to Birt & Co. as security on his being appointed; and it certainly seems they did not take any great length of time to invent the story, because, as it appears from Mr. Wilkinson's letter, they went to him the very day or the day after they failed to obtain payment, and told him their story. I confess the story is to me not a wholly satisfactory one, but however it seems to be difficult to understand

why they should have invented that particular story, and as I say, they seem to have brought it forward at once. Well, then, being satisfied as I am that they did actually advance the money, and so far have received no consideration for it, what I really have to consider now is whether the defendants have or have not shown that they have a right, either legal or equitable, to retain it. Now it has been urged on their behalf that they are entitled to retain the money on the ground that Yin Shen-fu may have persuaded the plaintiffs to lend him personally the money, and, I presume, on his personal credit while he was negotiating with the defendants to be their compradore, and that as an extra inducement he promised them an interest in the emoluments of the office, and I think Mr. Wainwright added further that, having induced them, the plaintiffs, to lend him the money he re-lent it to the defendants who knew only him in the matter. With regard to this contention, I think it may very well be answered that it is a mere hypothesis and there is actually no evidence to support it while on the other hand there is support for the plaintiffs' contention that the advance was made to procure the appointment of a new compradore. I am satisfied that is so; they did advance the money. It is clear from the evidence of Mr. Liddell himself that the money was made over to him on the day they paid it, and that they did attend at the defendants' office for the payment, while it is also asserted that Yin Shen-fu did hand over to them this receipt for the money. I do not see why if as a matter of fact they were lending the money to Yin Shen-fu personally they should have taken from Yin Shen-fu Birt & Co.'s receipts; they obtained Birt & Co.'s receipts and produced them. One would have thought that they would have been satisfied with Yin Shen-fu's receipt, but they demanded and obtained one from Mr. Liddell. Under the circumstances it does not occur to me that the defendants have an equitable right to retain this money as against the plaintiffs. I put it to the defendants' counsel whether he could show me any authority which would go to establish an equitable right on the part of the defendants to retain this money; and the only authority Mr. Wainwright cited in support of such a right was the case of *Watson v. Russell*. With regard to that case, as Mr. Wilkinson I think very justly pointed out, it is really no longer an authority at all, because by the later Bills of Exchange Act and the construction put upon it in the case of *Tatam v. Hasler*, the whole authority in that case is done away with; but even looking at the principle enunciated in that case under the then existing state of the law, there was a clear distinction between it and the present case. In that case the defendants received the money and applied it to the purpose for which it was given. In the present case it is clearly admitted that the defendants did not apply the money to the purpose for which it was given. Even taking their own version of the case, the money was given them by Yin Shen-fu as a loan in consideration of their appointing him compradore. I cannot agree with Mr. Wainwright that he was appointed compradore; if he were, it was an appointment of the most nominal description, and he was never put into office. I think it is clear the consideration there fails, and supposing it is shown the plaintiffs really advanced the money for that purpose, it seems to me, the consideration having failed, they have just as good a right to recover the money as if nothing had happened, because the defendants had omitted to appoint a compradore. The evidence as it stands may be unsatisfactory, but the evidence of the plaintiffs with regard to the object which they had in depositing the money and

the way in which they paid it clearly outweighs the negative evidence given on behalf of the defendants. I do not wish in the least degree to discredit Mr. Liddell's evidence; he gave it well and very fairly, and I did not even understand Mr. Wilkinson, either in his cross-examination or statement, attempted to cast any discredit on Mr. Liddell's evidence or to suggest that Mr. Liddell was at all aware of the source from which the money came, or that it was in contemplation that I Lin-yih should be appointed compradore. What Mr. Wilkinson contended, and rightly I think was that the plaintiffs have been misled, and that they had taken such reasonable precautions as were incumbent upon them by going to the office with the money themselves, and seeing as far as they could the application of it and getting receipts for it, and establishing their case against Mr. Liddell without any knowledge on his part at the time. Mr. Wainwright argued that the plaintiffs should not have given much credit to Yin Shen-fu, as he was only a godown-keeper and not a compradore and was not authorised to engage a compradore, etc. But it is quite clear from the evidence given on behalf of the defendants themselves that at the time Yin Shen-fu was very much trusted by the defendants, that they were on the eve of appointing him compradore, and that Mr. Vale, who was going to separate from the business, contemplated appointing him compradore also. It is clear he was in a position of much trust and responsibility, and by common rumour in compradoric circles he was a person whom the defendants very much trusted. Upon the whole, looking at this as a case in which one of two comparatively innocent parties suffer by the act of a third, I think the loss should fall upon the defendants, and not the plaintiffs. Other circumstances may be brought out hereafter, and it may be there are matters in the background of which we know nothing, but of that I have nothing in my notes and I am bound to proceed on the evidence as it stands. I am clearly of opinion there must be judgment for the plaintiffs.

Mr. WAINWRIGHT, on the question of costs, submitted the improbability of the plaintiffs' story and the fact that both parties had been deceived, as grounds for costs not falling on the defendants.

His LORDSHIP said that although he had arrived at his decision without hesitation, he was not at all satisfied with the way in which the plaintiffs gave their evidence, or whether they had told a strictly correct story. He wished to impress upon Chinese plaintiffs who came to that Court that they were much more likely to obtain speedy justice by telling a true story.

After some further discussion it was agreed between counsel to arrange costs. His Lordship, after giving judgment said he thought it was a case in which some allowance should be made; but as the costs would be considerable, he thought the arrangement was a reasonable one.

U.S. CONSULAR COURT.

Shanghai, 21st February.

Before Mr. J. A. LEONARD, Consul-General.

MANG v. JANSEN.

Judgment was given in this case, which was tried on the 17th instant. The action was brought by Laurenz Mang, a cook, against Mr. D. C. Jansen to recover \$425 for wrongful dismissal and \$240 for board and lodging till 16th September next. At the trial, in which the Consul-General was assisted by Messrs. C. McCaslin and J. F. Seaman as assessors, Mr. H. Browett appeared for the plaintiff, and defendant conducted his own case.

The Consul-General gave judgment in the following terms: "The judgment of this court, in which both the assessors concur, is that we adjudge the defendant to pay \$21.67, without costs."

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI. 27th February, 1890.

PIECE GOODS—No arrangement having been arrived at by the steamer companies for carrying on the trade with the cargo in this season, four or five vessels were dispatched on the morning of the 25th instant for Tientsin, running opposition to each other. In spite of the low rates of freight thus brought about, however, they were unable to move the Guild which governs this branch of the trade, and which had decided that no soft goods were to go forward until the 2nd proximo, and, as far as the dealers are concerned, nothing did go, the 4,000 odd packages that appear to have been taken being Bombay Yarn, and, presumably, transhipment cargo. This week has naturally been devoted chiefly to clearing, which has gone on steadily, so that it is unlikely that there will be the usual rush at the last moment this year, though the next two days are sure to be busy ones. The quantity to go forward is variously estimated, the most popular one being about 18,000 packages, of which it is supposed 5,000 bales will be American goods, being considerably under the average, 5,000 bales or so of Yarns, principally Indian, and the balance English goods of all descriptions.

As regards business during the interval there is not much to say, but it has certainly been rather disappointing than otherwise. A few purchases have been made for Tientsin at steady rates, but the quantity is considerably less than usual, monetary facilities, apparently, being very restricted this year, this, however, may turn out to be a good thing, if it prevents the market being swamped at the outset. The river and local markets seem to be quieter at the moment, and there is no particular "go" about the auctions, though clearances continue satisfactory. Advices from Manchester still report a quite and easy market.

Grey Shirtings.—8 1/2 lbs.—Helped by a large line for Tientsin settlements amounting to nearly 40,000 pieces, as follows:—*Blue Bell* £1.37 1/2, *Yellow Stag* £1.42 1/2, *Red Fish* £1.45, *Red Swan* £1.46, *Blue Lion and Flag* (Tien Ch'ung) £1.50, *Blue 4 Men* £1.56, *Red Dragon and Dragon* £1.58, *Red Boy and Red Jigger* £1.70 net, *Red Pagoda* £1.71 net, *Tai-ping Unicorn* £1.72 1/2, *Red Stag* (an old sale) £1.75, *Blue Joss* £1.77, *Pig's Head* £1.81 and *Red 3 Cash* £1.85. These rates show a steady market, but the demand is not brisk and common qualities, if anything, are slightly easier.

Light weights.—At auction 6 lbs. are firm, but for under this weight prices drop, the supply being heavy. 7 lbs. are also without strength, and the only private transaction mentioned is *Leet's Artillery*, 1,200 pieces at £1.34.

Heavy weights.—A small but varied business is reported, amounting to probably 15,000 pieces, comprising: 9 1/2 lbs.—*Two Flays* £2.15/16, 10 lbs.—*Red Cash, Black Herring and Green 5 Men* £1.95, *Blue 3 Men* (mildew) £1.97 1/2, *Processional Dragon* £2.03, and *Grasshopper* £2.15, 11 lbs.—*Blue 5 Men* £2.32 and 1 1/2 lbs *Blue 9 Bats* £2.52 1/2. For the better makes the market keeps firm and more has been done, but not made public, while auction rates are steady.

12 lbs.—There is not very much published, the only sales we hear of being.—*Blue 3 Men* and *Siu Wo Sailor* at £2.40, and *Blue Dragon* at £2.38—several more are rumoured but particulars have not transpired.

White Shirtings.—Very little way seems to be made with the lower grades and prices at auction are drooping again, the only private sale of 64 reed mentioned being *Woo No. 600* at £1.79 less 1 per cent, which is a trifle higher. For good 72 reed there is a better enquiry, and also for the finer qualities, some of the axes that have reached us being—*Ewo No. 700* (size-d) £2.03, *No. 3* (unglazed) £2.04, and *Buffalo Head No. 500* at £2.75, while transactions to extent of about 10,000 pieces have taken place at £2.10, £2.42 1/2, and £3.00 for special chops.

T-Cloths.—7 lbs.—Sales to extent of fully 15,000 pieces have been effected as follows:—*Red Flower* £1.11, *Blue Buffalo* £1.21 (net) *Black and Gold Flower* £1.21, *Three Fish* £1.22, *Blue Tiger* £1.19, *Red Man and Fish* £1.30/31, *Four Stag* £1.40, *Five do.* £1.45, and 7 1/2 lbs. *Sea Stag* £1.55. The market is steady, especially for good Mexican cloth.

8 lbs.—At auction prices are rather better for this weight, but beyond these the only sale mentioned is *Blue Dragon No. 1* at £1.86.

Drills.—English.—The market continues to drag, and only a few small sales have taken place again—*Two Dragon* £2.12 1/2, *Man and Horse* £2.15, *Tai-wo Stag* £2.20 less 1/2, and *Red Fei Loony* £2.82 1/2.

American.—No transactions have taken place in these makes, the market being nominally steady.

Jeans.—English.—The market keeps firm and business has been done in best makes at full rates. In Dutch a sale of 600 pieces *Stork* at £1.75 is announced.

Sheetings.—English.—Sales continue to be made in the better qualities but it is difficult to obtain any advance in prices. Settlements must reach nearly 12,000 pieces and include—*Guerridon* £2.25, *Lee-bui Cuck* £2.27 1/2, *Elephant and Gun* £2.32 1/2, *Blue Buffalo* £2.35, *Horse Head* £2.40, *Double Man Head* £2.50 and *Crocodile* £2.65.

American.—The business done this week amounts to nearly 40,000 pieces, as follows:—*Blue Joss BB* £2.35, *Two Sheep* £2.50, *Large Flag* £2.82 1/2, *Indian Head* £2.85 and £2.87 1/2, all less 1 per cent. The market keeps firm for the higher qualities but pending further news from Tientsin it is not likely that any more will be done.

Cotton Yarn.—English.—The market is strong but no sales have reached us.

Bombay.—There is no change to report in the position of these Spinnings, a fair business continuing at about previous rates. Sales amount to 2,029 bales as under.

No. 8., 30 bales.—*Leopold* £5 1/3/50 1/2.

No. 10., 215 bales *Star of India* £5 1/2, *Alexandra (Ballock)* £5 2/3, *James Greaves, Howard and Ballowh and Franjee Petit* £5 3/4.

No. 16., 308 bales.—*Narval* £5 1/3, and *Franjee Petit (Fish)* £5 1/3/53 1/4.

No. 20., 1,467 bales.—*Mahabuznee* £5 4/10, *Bombay United* £5 1/4, *Mohussil* £5 1/3/54 1/2, *Union Mill* £5 7/8, *Ahmedabad and Anglo-Indian* £5 7/8, *Dhun* £5 8/8 1/2, *Janshed, Imperial and Warden India* £5 8/8, *Jahlee and Venishunker (King)* £5 9/8, *Howard and Ballowh* £5 9/8, *James Greaves* £5 9/8/59 65, *David Mill* £6 1/4 and *Comnaught* £6 1/4/61.00.

Fancy Goods.—A moderate demand continues in miscellaneous descriptions at about former prices. *Turkey Reds* have been dealt in to extent of 1,800 pieces at £2.07 for 5 lbs. *old Dragon* and £1.45 for 3 1/2 lbs. *Vase*, the market keeping firm. There is very little enquiry for either *Levets* or *Veteetees*, and again no sales are mentioned. *Good Cotton Lastings* are steady and a further sale of 1,200 pieces *Dragon Lamp*, assorted, is reported at £2.42. *Muslins* and *Victoria Lawns* continue to meet with some demand and sales have been made again at from £0.51 to £0.54. *White Tawzines* have also had some attention, 30 yards selling at £1.63 and 40 yards at £2.15. *Printed Towels* have sold at £1.40, but the market is dull, and *Printed T-Cloths* have realised very low rates at auction. A sale of *Printed Towels* is mentioned at £0.40, and a few cases *Mosquito Net* at £0.17 for 85 inch.

Woollens.—At auction *Scarlet Camlets* have suffered severely this week, and *Gentian* in only a slightly less degree, but other colours have been pretty steady. A few private transactions are mentioned, namely *Torsen* at £9.95 for *Scarlet* and *Ge-Lian*, and *Gold 2 Dragon*, at £9.60 for an assortment—*Scarlet, Gentian, Magenta, and Yellow Long Ebs* are in very poor demand and prices for the best have declined a pace to a pace and half per cent for *Scarlet*. *Lastings* have been more saleable privately, though at auction rates are weak. *J. M. No. 12 Black* is reported at £3.40. *Dragon and Stork* chop No. 12 Black at £7.85, No. 9 *Gentian* at £7.30 and No. 8 do. at £6.65. *Sheep chop*, assorted, at £7.50 and *Figured Union*, assorted, at £5.50. *Spanish Stripes* at auction have gone at rather firmer prices, especially *Scarlet and Gentian*, no private sales being mentioned. In *Russian Cloth* nothing is reported, but 60 pieces *Gentian* and *Ash Medium Cloth* have been sold at £0.80. There is a better enquiry for *Italian Cloth*, but no business has transpired.

Metals and Miscellaneous.—From Mr. Alex. Biefeld's Report of 28th February:—My last report was dated 21st instant. The first batch of steamers left since for the North. Natives have been busy shipping goods, and sales have been of moderate proportions.

LEADS.—Small parcels of L. B. are reported done at £4.45 to £4.50. The demand remains very moderate.

NAILROD IRON.—About 60 tons Crown chop and 900 tons Soliers are reported having changed hands during the week, but particulars have not transpired. Crown chop is said to be done at £7.70.

OLD IRON.—There are no sales of any consequence on record.

STRAITS TIN.—Some 600 slabs Sow ong have been placed at £26.60 to £26.70, and small parcels of Fokchok at £27.20.

MATCHES.—There is nothing doing in Phosphor and Safeties. Of Viennas 250 cases Horse and Picture chop, have been sold at ₹17.25 to ₹17.50.

NEEDLES.—Sales reported are:—50 cases, Crown chop, Between, No. 2/0, 3/0 and 1/12, at ₹23, and 100 cases, No. 1/12, Deer chop, at ₹23.50.

DYES AND COLOURS.—Only a small business has been done privately. 4,500 tins, ea. 8 oz. Magenta, Bird chop, were sold, at 44 cauda, and 100 cases Emerald Green, at ₹23. At auction the following sales were made:—1,000 tins, ea. 8 oz., China Green, at 8½ cauda; 1,500 tins Crystal Green, Joss chop, at 19 cauda; 500 tins, ea. 1 catty, Scarlet, at 22½ cauda; 2,500 tins, ea. 8 oz., Ponceau, at 9 cauda; 18,000 tins, ea. 8 oz., Malachit Green Powder, at 9½ cauda; 11 cauda; 2,500 bottles, ea. 2 oz., Blue, at 5 cauda; 8,000 bottles Eosine Blue, at 7½ cauda.

BUTTONS AND UMBRELLAS.—No business reported.

TEARIN CANDLES.—Some 2,800 boxes, 9 oz., have been sold at ₹1.30 to ₹1.37½.

HANDKERCHIEFS.—At auction 1,200 d. z. printed were sold at 3½ cauda.

LLAMA BRAID.—A sale of 75 cases assorted and black, No. 45/49, is reported done at 40 cauda.

Kerosine Oil.—Continues firm, and sales are making at ₹1.50 for "spot" for Devos prompt. The s.s. *Strathcarrn* arrived on the 17th at 30,000 cases Devos, making stocks about 265,000 cases.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—Malwa (new) ₹380, (old) ₹390, Patna (new) ₹354, Benares (new) ₹353.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. Cromie and Burkill's circular of 27th February:—London telegrams quote Silk—Quiet. Blue Elephant 14/- D-liveries of Chinas to 24th inst. 900 bales.

RAW SILKS.—Business has been dull and not more than 500 bales of all kinds have been settled during the week. Holders, however, remain very firm, and a slight advance has been established in Market No. 5 Tatlees.

TSATLEES.—Sales are about 250 bales at quotations.

TAYSAAAMS.—Purchases include 20 bales of K hings and 50 bales of 9 x 12 Moss.

YELLOW SILKS.—Settlements amount to about 80 piculs at ₹262½ for Muenchow, at ₹227½ for common Kopun, at ₹27½ a 230 for Fouyung, at ₹225 for Meyyang and at ₹182½ for Sz-chong.

Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from the 20th to the 26th February are about 400 bales of White Silks, 15 piculs of Yellow Silks and 20 piculs of Wild Silks.

RE-REELS.—Contracts have been made for 80 piculs of Market Nos. 1, 2 and 3 at ₹400, 390 and 380, showing an advance of ₹5 per picul. The outgoing American mill will probably take 250 bales.

WILD SILKS.—A few piculs of Tussah Re-reel have been placed at ₹130.

WASTE SILKS.—A fair business is doing in Tussah Wastes at ₹61½ and 57½ for Nov. 1 and 2, beyond which there is little to report.

SHANTUNG PONGEES.—Nothing doing.

Purchases include:—TSATLEES.—Bird "Fung-ling" at ₹392½, Gold Lion at ₹335, Gold Ki-i at ₹325, Ya-con-lay's Seeling at ₹322½. HANGCH W TSATLEK.—Blue Horse 1 at ₹320. TAYSAAAM.—Wn. Can. Gold Lily Flower No. 1 at ₹337, Green Kab. Green Stork 1 at ₹320, 9/12 Moss Double Butterfly 2 at ₹282½, Market at ₹240 a 250. YELLOW SILKS.—Mienchow at ₹23½, Kopun common at ₹27½, Fouyung at ₹230, Meyyang ₹225, Sz-chong ₹182½. TUSSAH.—Re-reel at ₹130. RE-REEL TSATLEK.—Market 1 at ₹400, 11 at ₹390, 111 at ₹380.

	1889-90.	1888-89.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1884-85.
Settlements for this month	500	700	1,250	1,250	1,500	500 bales.
" for the season †	61,500	50,000	47,500	50,000	49,200	51,500 "
Stock	6,500	3,000	6,000	7,500	6,500	5,500 "
Total Arrivals	68,000	53,000	53,500	57,500	55,700	57,000 "

† Exclusive of purchases for re-sale on this market.

	England.	France, &c.	Total Europe.	America.	India & Egypt.	Coast & Straits.	Grand Total.
Export White Silk	4,388	35,718	40,106	5,725	797	1,030	47,658 bales.
" Yellow	10	5,520	5,530	...	1,780	78	7,388 "
" Wild	1,705	3,863	5,568	21	...	4	5,593 "
	6,103	45,101	51,204	5,746	2,577	1,112	60,639 "
Against in 1888-89	6,951	35,231	42,182	3,682	2,091	1,281	49,236 "
" 1887-88	5,302	33,563	38,865	3,066	2,745	1,494	46,170 "
Export—Waste Silk	14,449	24,370	38,819	48	...	213	39,000 piculs.
" Cocoons	6,422	1,512	7,934	109	...	35	8,078 "

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.

Also 480 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.

" 10 " " to Continent.

Tea.—BLACK.—No business reported.

STOCK.—2,030 half-chests against 7,600 half-chests in 1888-1889.

GREEN.—The business transacted during the past week has been very small, and calls for no special remark. Settlements only consist of two small chops of Moyune which have been taken at ₹16 and ₹24½ per picul.

STOCK.—3,000 half-chests against 1,700 half-chests in 1888-89.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM SHANGHAI AND YANGTZE PORTS.

From the commencement of the season to date 1889-1890.

	1889-90.			1888-89.		
	Black.	Green.	Total.	Black.	Green.	Total.
To Great Britain	45,353,702	7,782,035	53,135,737 lb.	45,898,335	6,268,149	52,166,484 lb.
" Russia direct	17,878,363	.....	17,878,363 "	17,604,478	.....	17,604,478 "
" America	6,530,225	14,416,935	20,947,160 "	4,041,301	14,439,288	18,480,589 "

EXPORT OF TEA TO NORTHERN PORTS.

To Russian Manchuria.

To Tientsin.

	From Hankow and Shanghai.				From Foochow.		Total.
	Black Tea.	Brick Tea.	Green Tea.	Black Tea.	Brick.		
1889 x 1890	1,122,561	3,325,940	219	10,633,011	27,814,074	56,024	78,657
1888 x 1889	1,635,029	7,053,636	137	15,401,394	31,178,154	59,073	280,593
							2,223,423
							1,377,485
							2,397,371
							1,313,001
							46,631,394 lb.
							59,319,388 "

Freight.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report, 28th February:—Our last was issued on 14th instant. Continued scarcity of cargo coupled with the ample steamer tonnage at hand has caused our freight market to fall to a very low ebb; rates to London show a further decline of 2s. 6d per ton, v.z., 22s. 6d. without bringing about any benefit to the steamers. The first batch of steamers for Tientsin composed of the s.s. *Pouchi*, *Toonann*, *Pecvili*, *Yiksun* and *Tungchow* sailed on 25th instant and it is hoped that their return may do something towards resuscitating trade that has been dormant so long. In the Newchwang-Amoy trade some settlements have been made as will be found below, but there are rumours abroad that when the port is actually opened we shall see considerably lower rates. On the Nagasaki-Shanghai route there is no change and rates remain as last quoted.

For London, via usual ports of call and Suez Canal:—The Glen Line s.s. *Glenkulas* is advertised to sail on 2nd proximo, and the O.S.S. Co.'s s.s. *Palmarus* is on the berth circulated for quick despatch.

For New York, via usual ports of call and Suez Canal:—The s.s. *Merionethshire* arrived from Japan yesterday and takes the berth. This will be the last direct departure before the opening of the new season.

Departures for London via Suez Canal:—The s.s. *Nestor* via Amoy on 16th instant; s.s. *Gleneagles* via Amoy on 18th instant, and s.s. *Cyclops* via Amoy on 23rd instant.

Departures for New York via Suez Canal:—Nil.

Quotations are:—Newchwang to Swatow, 26 Mex. cents per picul. Nagasaki to Shanghai, \$1.35 per ton of Coal nett, for both steamers and sailing vessels.

Settlements during the fortnight:—*Cape City*, British barque, 439 tons register, Chefoo to Amoy, 20 Mex. cents per picul, 18 lay days. *Feima*, British steamer, 685 tons register, Newchwang to Amoy, 27 Mex. cents per picul, 7 lay days. *Rewa*, British barque, 454 tons register, Newchwang to Amoy, 25 Mex. cents per picul, 20 lay days. *Swatow*, German steamer, 631 tons register, Newchwang to Amoy, 26½ Mex. cents per picul, 8 lay days. *Tsukushi Maru*, Japanese steamer, 647 tons register, Newchwang to Amoy, 26 Mex. cents per picul, 10 lay days.

Disengaged vessel in port.—*Nanaimo*, British barque, 396 tons register.

Coal.—From Messrs. Wheelock & Co.'s Report of 28th February:—We have little or no change to report in our coal market. The arrivals have been mostly to consumers. **CARIBBEAN.**—No enquiry. **AMERICAN ANTHRACITE.**—Dull. **AUSTRALIAN.**—Wollongong.—There is no apparent change in the position of Wollongong; the stocks still remain very large. **NEWCASTLE, N.S.W.** Nothing doing. **JAPAN.**—With the exception of a few sales of Imabuko at \$3.15 and common kinds of Chikuzen at \$2.50 to \$3.00 there has been nothing doing.

	Per ton.		Per ton.
Cardiff, ex godown	12.50 nominal.	Japan, Miiké Lump, ex godown	5.50 sales.
American Anthracite, ex godown	9.00 ..	.. .. Small	4.75 scarce.
Sydney, Wollongong, ex sailing ship	6.80 ..	.. .. Imabuko, ex godown	3.10 sales.
.. .. steamer cargo ex godown	7.10 sales.	.. .. Kweilung, Lump, ex godown	5.00 ..
Newcastle, N.S.W., ex godown	8.10 ..	.. .. Hayama	5.25 nominal.
Japan, Takasima Lump, ex godown	6.00 nominal.	.. .. Chikuzen	4.25 sales.
.. .. Small	4.35 ..		

Arrivals during the fortnight have been:—Miiké Lump, 3,797 tons; Mixed Ja. an, 6,871 ton; Takasima Dust, 2,606 tons; Namazuta, 393 tons; total, 13,567 tons.

Shares.—Hongkong Banks have been sold to Hongkong during the week at 204 per cent. premium for delivery to-day, a Trust and Loan (Founder's) at £75 and 4/3, China Shippers' Mutuals at £14½ and 4/2½, North China Insurance at \$350 and 352 50, and Straits at \$22½; China Fires at \$91½, 92 91½ 92, and Straits Fires at \$18½; Peking Docks at \$25, Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares at \$220, and Postings at \$30; Land Investments at \$33½, Major Bro. at \$51, and Sheridan Mines at \$240.

Exchange.—There has been a rise in sterling rates of 3/4, and 3/4, in the price of silver. The demand for remittance has been moderate and the supply of private paper small. The latest silver quotation is 44d. Council drafts were allotted at 1/5 1/3 up to 1/5 3/3 = 50 lace T.T. Native interest is 18 cents, equal to 6½ per cent. per annum.

DAILY QUOTATIONS.
(From Messrs. Morris & Fergusson's Circular.)

	ON LONDON.				FRANCE.		GER-	N. YK	HONG-	YOKO-	INDIA.				
	T/Transfers.		Bank 4 m/s.		Credits 4 m/s.		Docty. 4 m / .			FRANCE 4 m/s. and 6 do.	4 m/.	Docty 4 m/.	HONG-	YOKO-	INDIA.
	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.		Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.	Lowest.	Highest.
Saturday, 22nd ...	4.2½	4.2½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	5.46/5.49	5.46/5.49	4.41	94½	27½	72½	300
Monday, 24th	4.2½	4.2½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	5.47/5.50	5.47/5.50	4.42	94½	27½	72½	300
Tuesday, 25th	4.2½	4.3	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.4	4.4	5.47/5.50	5.47/5.50	4.42	94	27½	72½	300
Wednesday, 26th	4.3	4.3	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.4	4.4	5.47/5.50	5.47/5.50	4.42	94	27½	72½	300
Thursday, 27th	4.3	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.49/5.52	5.49/5.52	4.42	93½	27½	72½	300
Friday, 28th	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.3½	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	5.49/5.52	5.49/5.52	4.42	93½	27½	72½	300

AUCTION SALES.

Auctions for the week ending 27th February comprised the following Goods:—

	For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.		For the week.	Previous week.	Corresponding week last year.
Grey Shirtings.....	32,575 pos.	against 32,909 pos.	and 18,563 pos.	Velvets	pos.	against .. pos.	and .. pos.
White Shirtings	6,635 ..	.. 6,589 ..	.. 7,450 ..	Velveteens .....	..	..	..
T-Cloths	6,345 ..	.. 5,590 ..	.. 6,135 ..	Cotton Yarn	bales	..	..
Drills, English .....	..	.. 420 ..	.. 360 ..	Camlets	1,250 pos.	.. 1,330 ..	.. 1,340 pos.
Jeans, ..	150 ..	.. 150 ..	.. ..	Long Ells	760 ..	.. 700 ..	.. 540 ..
Sheetings, English	270 ..	.. 520 ..	.. 600 ..	Lastings	500 ..	.. 500 ..	.. 740 ..
Turkey Reds .....	..	..	..	Spanish Stripes ..	873 ..	.. 699 ..	.. 648 ..

PIECE GOODS.

At Tai-ping, 21st Feb.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—500 pieces; *Black Unicorn* \$1.50½.

At Nie-kee, 22nd Feb.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4 lbs.—420 pieces; *Red Phoenix* \$1.20 and *Blue 2 Peacock* \$1.50.

Bombay T-Cloths. 7-lbs.—400 pieces; *Indian* \$1.13.

8-lbs.—200 pieces; *Indian* \$1.26½/27½.

Bombay Sheetings.—12-lbs.—200 pieces; *Eagle* \$1.73½/74½.

14-lbs.—120 pieces; *Blue Man* \$2.34½/35.

At E teh-lee, 24th Feb.—

Grey Shirtings—6-lbs.—150 pieces; *Yellow Man and Flower* \$0.90.

8.4-lbs.—1,400 pieces; *Blue Banana A* \$1.42½, *Red Hawk* \$1.46½, *Green Banana A1* \$1.52½/53½, *Blue Water Wheel* \$1.65½, *Red Chong Yuen XXI* \$1.68 and *Blue Musician* \$1.75.

10-lbs.—1,350 pieces; *Red Chong Yuen XXI* \$1.84½/85½.

10½-lbs.—250 pieces; *Red Chong Yuen XXX* \$1.87.

T-Cloths.—8-lbs.—32-in., 400 pieces; *Parakee* \$1.39/39½.

8.12-lbs.—36-in., 400 pieces; *Parakee* \$1.57½.

China Squares.—100 pieces; *Assorted* \$1.52.

Printed T-Cloths.—94½ pieces; *Assorted* \$0.63/1.29½.

Printed Handkerchiefs.—400 dozen; *Assorted* \$0.36½ per dozen.

Printed Towels—738 dozen; *Peacock* \$0.36.

At Ta-ko, 25th Feb.—

Grey Shirtings.—7-lbs.—1,000 pieces; *Silver Steamboat* \$1.12½.

8.4-lbs.—6,500 pieces; *Blue Eagle* \$1.14½/14½, *Man, Horse and Spear* \$1.33½/34½, *Silver Steamer* \$1.49½, *Blue Dragon* \$1.71/71½.

T.Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,275 pieces; *Man, Horse and Spear* M.T. No. 1 \$1.27, *Silver Steamboat* \$1.34½/35 and *Silver Dragon* \$1.39½/39½.

8-lbs.—1,380 pieces; *Man Horse and Spear* M.T. No. 2 \$1.28½, *Silver Steamboat* \$1.46½/46½ and *Silver Dragon* \$1.62½.

At E-ro, 26th Feb.—

Grey Shirtings.—5-lbs.—500 pieces; *Red Peacock* \$0.82½/83.

7-lbs.—700 pieces; *Red Peacock* \$1.09½/10, *Black Tea Caddy* XX \$1.23½/23½.
8.4-lbs.—3,720 pieces; *Black Bell* XX \$1.43½/44½, *Black Tea Caddy* XX \$1.50, *Blue 2-Duck* \$1.51½/52½, *Red Crab* XX \$1.58½, *Bruce* do. \$1.64½, *Blue Bell* XX \$1.76, *Blue Tea Caddy* DDD \$1.78½, *Blue 2-Tea Caddy* \$1.89½/89½.
10-lbs.—1,850 pieces; *Black Crab* \$1.8½/50½, *Red Crab* \$1.93½, *Blue 2 Crab* \$2.00/05, *Blue Bell* XX \$2.07½/08, *Blue Tea Caddy* DDD \$2.23, and do. CC \$2.20½.

11-lbs.—250 pieces; *Blue Bell* \$2.26.

White Shirtings.—64-reed, 100 pieces; *Red Tea Caddy* \$1.58.

72-reed—250 pieces; *Gold Tea Caddy* \$2.02/02½.
Fine—345 pieces; *Man and Tiger* \$2.01½, *Steamer* \$2.18½ and *Buffalo Head* R'S X7 \$2.30/30½.

T.Cloths.—7-lbs.—910 pieces; *Red Peacock* \$0.99½, *Red Tea Caddy* X \$1.23.

8-lbs.—600 pieces; *Red Tea Caddy* \$1.31 and *Blue Tea Caddy* \$1.38½/40.

Sheetings.—English.—150 pieces; *Cock* \$2.24½ and 3 *Buff.* \$2.30.

At Yuen-fong, 27th Feb.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—1,200 pieces; *Lotus* \$0.89½, *Two Man* \$1.00, and *Blue 3-Students* \$1.02½.

7-lbs.—2,850 pieces; *Blue Britannia* \$1.13½/13½, *Blue 4-Sister* \$1.31½, and *Blue 3-Students* \$1.41½.
8.4-lbs.—4,905 pieces; *Two Man* \$1.32½/32½, *House* \$1.31½/32½, *Blue Britannia* \$1.43½/4½, *Blue 4-Sister* \$1.55½, *Blue 3-Students* \$1.54½, *Blue Double Shield* \$1.58½/58½, *Red 3-Students* \$1.72½/73, and *Five Brothers* \$1.83.

10-lbs.—2,150 pieces; *Blue Britannia* \$1.79½, *Red Britannia* \$1.95½, *Red Emperor's Birthday* \$2.00½, *Red 3-Students* \$2.01.

10.12-lbs.—500 pieces; *Gold Britannia* \$2.29½/29½.

11-lbs.—1,000 pieces; *Painted 3 Students* \$2.31½/31½.

12-lbs.—480 pieces; *Soldier* \$2.39½/39½ and *Nine Lions* \$2.43½.

White Shirtings.—64-reed, 2,500 pieces; *House bright* \$1.59½/59½, do. dull \$1.58½/59, *Blue Double Lighthouse bright* \$1.60½/61½ and dull \$1.59½/60.

72-reed—3,340 pieces; *White and Gold 3-Students* \$2.03½/04, *Red Two-Sister* \$2.03½, *Red Double Lighthouse bright* \$2.03; 04 dull \$2.03½/04, *Gold Star*, bright \$2.30 and do. dull \$2.33½.

T.Cloths.—7-lbs.—730 pieces; *Blue Lion* \$1.23½, *Red Double Shield* \$1.24½, and *Red 3-Students* \$1.32½/33.

8-lbs.—650 pieces; *Blue Lion* \$1.32½ and *Painted 3 Students* \$1.62.

Jeans.—English, 8-lbs.—150 pieces; *Two Squirrel* \$1.87½.

Sheetings.—English.—14-lbs.—120 pieces; *Old Man Head* \$2.60.

WOOLLENS.

Auctions—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dk. Gentian.	Green, and N. Green.	Orange and Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White.	Purple.	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	It. Gl. Mid.	Sales Pcs.
Tai-Ping, 21st inst.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	
L'ings, Sea H'se, No. 7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5.88/89	.....	.....	.....	100
Sales, pcs. ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	100
NIX KKK, 22nd inst.													
S. S'pes B.T.L., p. yd.	0.48.55/48.65	0.42.9.42.95	0.46.05/46.2	0.48.05 0.48.15	0.42.2	0.42.3 0.42.05*	0.44	.....	0.45.8/46.45	.....	0.43.45	0.46.9 0.46.9*	294
Sales, pcs.	60	12	24	24*	6	12	12	.....	18	.....	12	14	
" E'phant & Pot	0.28.7	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.29 0.28.6*	18
Sales, pcs.	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12	
E-TRH-LRE, 24th inst.													
Camlets, I.I.I., p. pc. ....	.....	10.72½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Sales, pcs. ....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
" Fish (P.P.P.) p.p.	9.47½	9.72½	9.50	9.77½	9.60	.....	.....	.....	9.25	.....	.....	.....	100
Sales, pcs.	40	10	20	10	10	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	100
Long Ells, H.H., p. pc.	5.08	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Sales, pcs.	10½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Sp. S'pes, H.H., p. yd.	0.48/48½	.....	0.49½/49½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	180
Sales, pcs.	114	.....	66	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	180
" Horse Head ...	0.41.3	0.44.2	0.44	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
Sales, pcs.	12	12	12	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	36
" Beehive, p. yd.	6.35.8	.....	0.39.6	.....	.....	.....	0.22½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
Sales, pcs.	12	.....	6	.....	.....	.....	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	21
" Eagle, p. yd.	0.35.6	.....	0.39.8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
Sales, pcs.	24	.....	24	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	48
E-ro, 26th inst.													
Cloths, Man Horse, p. p.	9.25/26	.....	9.21	9.35/40	9.22	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.15	.....	210
Sales, pcs.	120	.....	40	20*	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	210
" Bow, p. pc.	9.10	.....	8.81	8.63	8.80	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Sales, pcs.	20	.....	10	1*	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
" D'ble Deer, p. c.	8.56	.....	8.41	8.21	8.21	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Sales, pcs.	20	.....	20	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	50
Long Ells, H.D.R., p. p.	4.78/81	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	300
Sales, pcs.	30½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	300
" D'ble Phoenix ...	4.62½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Sales, pcs.	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
" Single Phoenix ...	4.60/61	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
Sales, pcs.	60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	60
S. S'pes, Single Phoenix	0.42.8/43.2	0.42.4	0.43.1	0.45.3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	0.43	186
Sales, pcs.	84	12	72	12*	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6	186
YUEN-FONG, 27th inst.													
Camlets, S.S.G., p. pc.	10.17½/20	10.97½	9.95/10.00	10.7½	10.60	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.40/45	9.90/90	400
Sales, pcs.	160	70	160	10*	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20	20*	400
" G.G.M., p. pc.	10.35	11.00	10.0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9.47½	.....	50
Sales, pcs.	20	10	10	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	.....	50
" S.S.H., p. pc.	9.5½/55	10.00/5	9.73½/77½	.....	9.90/92½	.....	8.97½	.....	.....	.....	9.35	9.42½/45	370
Sales, pcs.	15½	70	90	.....	20	.....	10	.....	.....	.....	10	26*	370
Long Ells, G.G.L., p. p.	4.95/97	6.55	5.28	.....	.....	.....	4.74	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200
Sales, pcs.	140	20	20	.....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	200
Lastings, G.G.R., p. p. c. ....	.....	.....	8.62½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8.65	.....	.....	8.80	200
Sales, pcs. ....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	140	.....	.....	40	200
" F.F.R., p. pc. ....	.....	.....	7.42½	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6.92½/97½	.....	.....	.....	200
Sales, pcs. ....	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	180	.....	.....	.....	200
S. S'pes, T.T.B., p. yd.	0.50½	0.46½	0.46½	0.51½	0.43	.....	.....	.....	0.46½	.....	0.45½	0.48½/49	90
Sales, pcs.	24	12	6	6	6	.....	.....	.....	6	.....	6	24	90

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 26th Feb., 1890, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 39 to 44, both numbers inclusive.

Goods.	RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.																
	Stamps.	Washburn.	Chickama.	Wichita.	Kokomo.	Franklin.	Chickas.	Yonkers.	Newburgh.	London.	Hongkong.	Sagadah.	Honk.	Yokohama.	Cebu.	Other.	Imports.
Grey Shirtings †	10,515	...	9,155	6,370	2,645	35,818	2,790	...	...	...	...	320	...	...	...	10,000	200
Do. Cloth, 32-in.	1,750	...	60	375	75	1,640	5,685	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,700	...
Do. " 36-in.	1,250	...	60	120	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,650	120
White Shirtings	3,160	...	1,720	364	1,533	13,078	1,099	...	...	249	...	100	...	...	...	4,600	...
Do. English & Dutch	285	...	60	...	...	555	225	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	90	...
Do. American	255	...	...	15	...	675	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	105	...
Do. English & Dutch	40	...	...	30	...	100	1,220	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	...
Do. American	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. English	270	...	1,050	5,280	670	2,150	380	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	540	40
Do. American	200	...	...	...	...	...	525	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	...
Dyed Shirtings	660	...	1,380	...	30	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Do. & Sp. Shirtings, White	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. Dyed	40	...	100	...	100	...	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
Prints	...	...	...	...	60	...	50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	300	...
Printed T-Cloths	570	...	598	296	160	1,264	295	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450	...
Printed Twills	80	...	468	...	...	237	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	813	...	550	450	559	1,990	1,297	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
Velvets	168	...	60	120	30	240	60	...	...	...	...	420	...	...	...	60	...
Velvetines	...	...	30	...	12	36	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...
Blanketchiefs, Doz.	560	...	1,000	440	1440	300	800	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,500	...
Muslins, Pes.	300	...	100	...	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	200
Lenos & Balzarines	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Yarn, Bombay, Feb.	...	...	15	...	123	1,191	742	...	...	219	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Do. English	...	...	...	...	33	315	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Spanish Stripes, Woollen, Pes.	45	...	78	6	12	222	12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...
Do. Cotton	...	...	48	...	...	24	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100	...
Medium and Broad Cloths	24	...	42	...	...	72	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Complets	160	...	70	80	170	450	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Long Ells	20	...	100	100	80	460	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
Castings	80	...	60	20	80	830	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Do. Cape	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Castings, Cotton & Indians	470	...	879	169	40	2,590	1,300	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	400	...
Castings, Plain	...	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Figured Orleans	...	...	120	...	...	60	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Cotton Flannels	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Cast in Pigs	147	...	66	...	...	841	...	...	...	...	...	210	...	...	...	...	...
Cast—Nail Rod	420	...	2,079	336	19	861	186	...	...	...	...	24	...	...	...	...	...

Goods.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			BOOKS AT DATE ARE HANDED TO THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICE, OF 1ST JAN., 1890.	
	As above.	For the Year from 1st Jan., 1890.	Against last year to same term.	For the week.	For the year from 1st Jan., 1890.	Against last year to same term.	* As last Estimated.	Against 27th Feb. 1889.
Grey Shirtings †	77,813	556,127	487,016	237,301	692,682	701,815	2,093,800	1,174,118
Do. Cloth, 32-in.	13,825	81,535	94,895	40,694	67,303	118,060	354,051	469,435
Do. " 36-in.	3,200	27,800	4,330	10,010	24,450	67,332	176,203	166,757
White Shirtings	25,903	136,902	141,432	66,195	179,366	298,111	461,372	673,870
Do. English and Dutch	1,275	8,440	14,855	4,275	19,596	55,125	268,567	302,505
Do. American	1,200	5,290	4,530	1,510	8,530	82,950	82,950	87,013
Do. English and Dutch	1,630	5,550	4,540	10,530	30,242	12,000	45,102	49,490
Do. American	...	...	110	...	...	...	...	...
Castings, English	10,380	40,760	34,712	7,705	87,179	43,687	252,641	512,939
Do. Am.	905	8,805	9,930	...	200	9,910	331,130	782,665
Dyed Shirtings	2,350	9,270	9,391	3,631	9,617	9,707	9,997	46,280
Do. & Sp. Shirts, White	...	290	450	...	...	...	1,663	600
Do. Dyed	440	2,590	1,540	900	1,890	3,820	18,652	9,420
Prints	410	5,159	13,857	302	7,058	18,918	24,731	26,738
Printed T-Cloths	3,633	18,300	8,182	13,601	36,100	8,683	232,456	261,358
Printed Twills	1,025	7,181	6,842	2,483	7,177	11,168	48,179	101,668
Turkey Red Shirtings	6,059	42,322	46,423	12,010	33,270	56,563	98,736	186,967
Velvets	1,158	4,252	3,524	2,209	7,225	2,460	17,241	21,827
Velvetines	168	1,197	903	150	725	731	9,508	8,247
Blanketchiefs, Doz.	10,040	53,884	51,230	7,418	37,001	38,346	193,027	236,991
Muslins, Pes.	700	7,527	16,535	2,100	2,841	39,202	181,688	162,726
Lenos & Balzarines	200	1,827	...	...	3,605	...	18,252	...
Cotton Yarn, Bombay, Feb.	2,290	14,667	10,579	12,639	29,583	16,965	49,554	22,165
Do. English	357	2,602	2,663	849	2,184	4,331	6,923	18,635
Spanish Stripes, Woollen, Pes.	528	3,290	2,868	2,002	3,720	6,602	8,586	23,099
Do. Cotton	244	986	...	744	1,344	...	6,937	...
Medium and Broad Cloths	178	1,592	1,586	...	...	2,422	19,377	29,336
Complets	990	9,740	10,030	2,330	9,549	13,337	85,939	3,017
Long Ells	830	7,400	8,878	1,300	7,600	9,500	59,853	18,262
Castings	1,130	8,000	7,970	1,609	8,457	17,225	59,456	75,208
Do. Cape	20	180	300	199	398	700	906	1,080
Cotton Castings & Indians	5,848	32,604	26,036	18,825	62,281	31,429	352,202	497,507
Castings, Plain	40	170	420	200	700	700	1,879	870
Figured Orleans	280	2,549	2,160	720	1,560	4,459	13,608	32,823
Cotton Flannels	220	1,132	...	4	425	...	3,843	...
Cast in Pigs	1,264	5,172	13,106	...	3,357	26,348	46,412	53,194
Cast—Nail Rod	3,925	8,948	13,996	1,680	23,730	14,448	138,405	121,594

† Including English and Dutch 12-Ins.
 * Exclusive of undeclared Import Cargoes per *Glennason, McIbourn, Tartar, Palinurus, St. Athearn, Massilia, Galley of Lorne and Sachsen*. Import Cargoes declared during interval: *Sutlej, Nestor, Cyclops*, and additional ex *Clyde and Peninsula*.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT

23TH FEBRUARY, 1890.

EXCHANGE.—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 4s. 3½d. Bank Bills, demand, 4s. 3½d. Bank Bills, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 4s. 4d. a 4s. 4½d.; 6 months' sight, 4s. 4½d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 4s. 4½d., 6 months' sight, 4s. 4¾d. On France—Bank Bills, demand, Fcs. 5.39; Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 5.49, 6 months' sight, 5.52. On Germany—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, Marks 4.42. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 93½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 27½; Private Bills, 30 days' sight, 28. On Yokohama—Telegraphic Transfers, 72½; Private Bills, 30 days' sight, 71½. On Bombay—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 300. Calcutta, Rs. 300. Bullion—Gold Bars, Peking, 98 touch, ₹225.50. Silver Bars, ₹111.15. Mexican dollars, ₹72.45. Copper Cash, 1,390. Native Interest, mace 1.8.

BANKS.—*Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.*—The dividend of £2 was paid on the 24th instant. The only transaction reported is a purchase of shares from H. gkong at 204 per cent. premium cum divid-nd.

DOCKS.—*Shanghai* are wanted at ₹400. *Pootungs* have changed hands at ₹25.

GAS.—The French Municipal Council have accepted a tender by the *Shanghai Gas Co.* to light the Settlement. The *Compagnie du Gaz* has agreed to sell its plant to the *Shanghai Gas Co.*, and will therefore go into liquidation. *Shanghai Gas* shares have been sold at ₹190.

MINE INSURANCE.—Business has been done in *No-th-Chinas* at ₹350, and in *Straits* at ₹24.

FIRE INSURANCE.—*Hongkong Fire Insurance Co. Ltd.*—Shares are quiet at ₹395 cum dividend. *China Fire Insurance Co.*—Business has been done at ₹91½ to ₹92 cum dividend, for cash. *Straits Fire Insurance* shares have been sold at ₹18½, and are wanted.

WHARFS.—Business has been done in *Shanghai* and *Hongkew Wharf* shares at ₹220, and in *Pootungs* at ₹80. The latter are wanted on the same terms.

MINING.—*Meridans* have been sold at ₹240.

CARGO BOATS.—*Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.*—The Report and Accounts for 1889 were presented and passed at the annual general meeting of shareholders held on the 26th inst. The Company's proportion of profits on the working of the joint companies was ₹7,759.99. Repairs and Directors' and auditors' fees absorbed ₹2,719.28. The Profit and Loss account, including a balance of ₹1,828.35 from last year, shows a credit balance of ₹7,003.31 out of which a dividend of ₹4 per share was paid yesterday, absorbing ₹4,000, and leaving a balance of ₹3,003.31 to be carried forward. The Reserve Fund stands unchanged at ₹2,000.—We quote ₹50 as the closing rate, ex div.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Business has been done in *Shanghai Land Investment* shares at ₹33½, *Major Brothers* shares at ₹51, and *Trust and Loan Founders'* shares at ₹75 and exchange 4/3.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION FOR LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.		
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	Closing.	Twice.	
Banks.											
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co.	60,000	£125	£125	\$4,600,000	£141,310.47	31 Dec. 89	* 5/2	24 Feb. 90	194 ½ pr.	268.27	
New Oriental Bank Corp., Ltd.	54,700	£10	£10	£170,416.4	6	22,511.12.11	31 Mar. 89	* 3%	9 July 89	£10.14.0	49.62
Shipping.											
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd.	1,000	£100	£100	.....	£2,488.76	31 Dec. 88	* 5/2	10 Oct. 89	.....	81.50
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co.	49,589	£10	£10	22,448.16.10	£1,606.14.9	31 Dec. 88	+ £2.98	12 July 89	.....	34.00
Shanghai Shipping Co.	150	£1,000	£1,000	.....	£43,000.0	31 Dec. 89	* 5%	11 Jan. 90	.....	600.00
China Shippers' Mutual S. N. Co.	7,662	£20	£13	£52,000.00	£3,495.11.2	31 Dec. 88	* £1.79	5 Dec. 89	£14.5.0	67.22	
Taku Tug and Lighter Co.	8,600	£350	£350	£20,000.00	£23,582.97	31 Dec. 88	* 5%	8 Feb. 88	£350.50	53.28	
Docks.											
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	£500	£500	£18,800.00	£226.42	1 Dec. 89	* £12	16 Jan. 90	.....	400.00
Pootung Dock Co.	950	£100	£100	.....	£112,458.70	31 Dec. 88	* 5%	14 Jan. 88	.....	25.00
Gas.											
Shanghai Gas Co.	2,000	£100	£100	£70,000.00	£2,254.96	31 Dec. 88	* 6 ½%	7 Jan. 90	.....	190.00
Compagnie du Gaz	500	£100	£100	£19,647.18	£89.90	31 Dec. 88	* 1 ½%	3 July 89	.....	145.50
Insurance (Marine.)											
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd.	24,000	£83.33	£25	650,000.00	£231,343.91	30 Apr. 89	+ \$5	9 Sept. 89	£72.00	52.56	
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£200	£50	£327,766.50	£63,733.46	30 June 89	+ \$26.83	27 Apr. 89	.....	352.50
Union In. Society of Canton Ltd.	10,000	£250	£25	£732,500.00	£466,216.41	30 June 89	+ \$7	16 Oct. 89	£100.00	73.00	
Yangtze Insurance Association	8,000	£100	£100	£139,610.62	.....	3 Apr. 89	+ \$3 ½%	18 Jan. 89	.....	92.00
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	£1,000	£200	£28,711.50	£15,285.84	31 Dec. 87	+ \$3 ½%	2 Apr. 88	£85.00	nominal	
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	£250	£50	£417,000.00	£493,203.56	30 Sep. 89	+ 10%	7 Jan. 90	£125.00	91.25	
Straits Insurance Co., Limited	30,000	£100	£20	£115,600	£113,000.00	31 Dec. 88	* 5%	21 Oct. 89	£22.50	16.42	
Insurance (Fire.)											
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Limited	8,000	£250	£50	£1,056,049	£303,349.10	31 Dec. 89	+ 33 ½%	4 Mar. 89	£395.00	288.35	
China Fire Ins. Co., Limited	20,000	£100	£20	£700,000	£184,085.53	31 Dec. 89	+ 15%	6 Mar. 89	£92.50	67.16	
Straits Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	£100	£20	£13,000.00	£54,215.25	31 Dec. 88	+ 8%	1 Mar. 89	£18.50	13.50	
Singapore Insurance Co., Ltd.	29,176	£100	£20	£11,875.91	£132,507.27	31 Dec. 88	+ 12 ½%	27 Apr. 89	£15.50	11.32	
Wharfs.											
Shanghai & Wharf Co.	2,867	£100	£100	£89,089.75	£1,560.37	31 Dec. 89	£8	18 Feb. 90	.....	220.00
But's Wharf Hide-Curing and Wool-Cleaning Company	2,100	£50	£50	£10,000.00	.....	31 Oct. 89	* 34 ½%	29 Nov. 89	.....	34.00
Pootung Wharf & Godown Co.	2,300	£100	£100	£12,000	£96.65	1 Dec. 89	+ 2 ½%	8 Feb. 90	.....	80.00
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited	17,600	£50	£50	.....	£2,755.25	31 Dec. 88	5%	6 Mar. 89	£99.00	72.27
Mining.											
Meridans Mining Co.	3,000	£100	£100	£29,125.85	.....	31 Jan. 89	£15	3 Apr. 89	.....	240.00
Mendota Mining Co.	3,000	£10	£10	£6,107.50	.....	31 Jan. 89	£3	31 Dec. 87	.....	230.00
Smuggler Mining Co.	5,600	G. \$100	G. \$100	.....	.....	.....	£2	.....	.....	150.00
Selama Tin Mining Co., Ltd.	120,000	£5	£2	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	£3.75	2.74
Do, do.	20,000	£5	£5	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	£6.75	5.93
Cargo Boats.											
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£200	£200	£3,003.47	£2,834.25	31 Dec. 88	* 3 ½%	2 Aug. 89	.....	185.00
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	£100	£100	£2,000.00	£3,003.31	31 Dec. 89	+ 4%	27 Feb. 90	.....	50.00
Miscellaneous.											
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	6,000	£20	£20	£5,000.00	£1,177.15.1	31 Dec. 88	* 3 ½%	1 Aug. 89	£35.00.0	164.71	
Do, New Shares	1,200	£20	£15	.....	.....	.....	* 3 ½%	1 Aug. 89	£30.00.0	135.85
Peanut Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.	5,000	£50	£50	.....	£12,333.69	31 Dec. 88	None	.....	.....	31.00
Hall & Holtz Co-operative Co., Ltd.	6,000	£50	£50	.....	£15,000.00	3 Feb. 89	£24	1 May 88	.....	29.00
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd.	667	£100	£100	.....	£4,473.63	31 Dec. 88	£5	July 89	£125	91.25
New Shanghai Electric Co., Ltd.	300	£100	£100	.....	£186.98	31 Oct. 89	+ £7	28 Nov. 89	.....	100.00
Sh. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	20,000	£50	£30	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	33.75
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	£100	£100	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	£112.00	81.76
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	£50	£50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	54.00
Major Brothers, Limited	6,000	£50	£50	.....	.....	.....	First year	.....	.....	51.00

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1883	£45,000.00	£45,000.00	£100	7%	Dec. & June.	£105.00
Do, 1885	£30,000.00	£30,000.00	£100	7%	Do.	£105 nom
Do, 1888	£70,000.00	£70,000.00	£100	6%	Do.	£103 "
China Merchants' S. N. Co. Debentures	£300,000	£204,000	£100	7%	Quarterly	£106(a)
Lyceum Theatre Debentures	£17,000.00	£17,000.00	£25	4%	7 Jan. '89	£11.00
Chinese Govt. Government Loan 1884 B	\$1,394,700.14	\$418,410.04	£500	8%	30th June.	\$505 (a)
Do, do, 1884 C	\$1,594,700.14	\$1,036,820.03	£500	8%	15th Oct.	\$505 (a)
Do, do, 1886 E	S. \$767,900.00	\$746,700.00	£250	7%	Mar. & Sept.	£290.00(a)

For half-year, || For quarter year, † For year, ‡ A deficit, § Reserve for equalization of dividend, (a) Exclusive of accrued interest.